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ARAB TIMES

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20 PAGES 150 FILS

Moves to persuade Iraq to reverse decision

Arab Times report

KUWAIT. March 4. Uncertainty prevailed today over the Iraqi withdrawal from the 10th Arab Gulf Football tournament.

The president of the Kuwait Football Association and chairman of the organizing committee of the tournament, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad confirmed today that the organizing committee received the official decision of the Iraqi with-

drawal.

Speaking to reporters after presiding over a meeting of the heads of the participating delegations, Sheikh Fahd said that the committee also received an official protest from the Iraqi delegation over their match with UAE. He added that the protest was referred to the technical committee of the tournament which will hold a meeting tomorrow morning to discuss the Iraqi protest. Iraq surprisingly attended today's meeting.

The Iraqi Football Federation said last night that they were withdrawing from the Gulf soccer tournament in protest against refereeing in their match against the United Arab Emirates. They were particularly critical of the referee's expulsion of their veteran defender, Adnan Dergal, which forced the Iraqis to play the whole second half with only 10 players.

Sheikh Fahd hinted that there were some contacts going on with Iraq to

reverse its withdrawal decision, but rejected claims that Iraq was being under pressure.

"We don't put any pressure on anyone and contacts between friendly countries never stop," Sheikh Fahd stressed. He also hoped that the Gulf cup competitions will continue.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi team which was supposed to leave Kuwait for Iraq today has not left. According to unconfirmed reports the Iraqi team had a training

session today at the Qadsia stadium. Iraq's next scheduled match was on March 7.

Sheikh Fahd said the heads of delegations will hold another meeting on March 6.

The Iraqis indicated that Saudi Arabia plans to organise a rival soccer tournament for the region.

The Iraqi Football Federation headed

-(Continued on Page 20)

Premier discusses democratic formula

Meeting with former deputies frank

KUWAIT, March 4. (Agencies): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah last night met a number of former deputies as part of consultations with citizens on national issues.

Sheikh Saad, said the discussions focused on a formula to the failure of the (previous) democratic practice.

HH the Amir, dissolved the Parliament at the height of the Iran-Iraq war. He cited a foreign conspiracy to destroy the state.

The Amir in January called for a dialogue on national issues.

Sheikh Saad first met the former deputies on Feb 7. Ahmed Saddoun, speaker of the dissolved Assembly said then that the Crown Prince showed great keenness to make that meeting a success.

He declined to comment on yesterday's meeting but said former deputies would meet to assess the latest talks.

Sheikh Saad hailed the positive atmosphere which prevailed at the meeting and the frankness and clearness with which all ideas and opinions tabled on all aspects of the former parliamentary experiment and reasons for its stumbling were discussed.

The Crown Prince expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the views expressed to him during his continuous meetings with the citizens and pointed to their importance in crystallising a suitable formula.

Sheikh Saad affirmed his intention to continue such meetings with all spheres of the Kuwaiti society and hope that they would result in ensuring the national interest under leadership of HH the Amir.

Israeli ministers revolt over talks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 4. (Reuter): Cabinet ministers of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party publicly rebelled today against a US call for a quick Israeli decision on opening historic talks with the Palestinians.

The open battle inside Likud, the dominant partner in Israel's coalition government, undermined earlier reports that Shamir was ready to approve Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

See Page 7

Weather

FAIR weather with light northwesterly changing to light variable wind. State of sea: Slight. High water: 7:00 am, 3:00 pm. Low water: 11:00 am, 12:00 pm. Current: 6:00 pm. Sunset: 5:50 pm. Maximum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 26°C/79°F. Almadhi: 23°C/73°F. Fallaik: 24°C/75°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 11°C/52°F. Almadhi: 13°C/55°F. Fallaik: 13°C/55°F. Maximum temperatures expected: Kuwait: 26°C/79°F. Almadhi: 23°C/73°F. Fallaik: 24°C/75°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 67 per cent. Almadhi: 48 per cent. Fallaik: 60 per cent.

Rebel gov escapes

TUGUEGARAO, Philippines, March 4. (UPI): A rebellious governor seized a hotel before dawn today and allegedly killed a high-ranking military officer, then escaped when government troops routed his gunmen from the building nine hours later in an assault that left at least 19 people dead, official said.

Renegado Cagayan provincial governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo, whose 200-man force seized the downtown Hotel Delfino in an unsuccessful attempt to lead an uprising against President

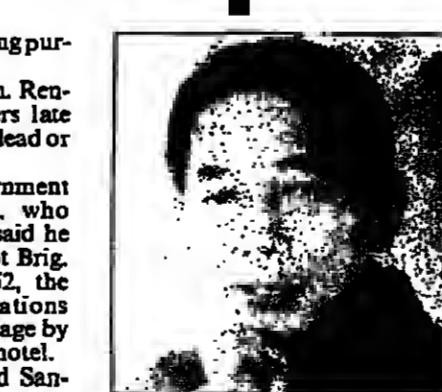
Corazon Aquino, was being pursued, the military said.

Armed forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa issued orders late today to get Aguinaldo "dead or alive."

Aquinodo's local government secretary, Luis Santos, who escaped from the hotel, said he had seen Aguinaldo shoot Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, 52, the armed forces' civil relations chief, who was taken hostage by Aguinaldo's forces in the hotel.

Aquinodo had dispatched San-

(Continued on Page 2)



Florendo

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo KD 250 must be won

Coupon for Game No. 76 appears on Page 11. Last date for sending entries is March 12 and numbers will be drawn from March 14.

PRIZES

Four Corners

Top Line

First Full House

Second Full House

Third Full House

KD 25

KD 25

KD100

KD 60

KD 40

Russians vote in key republics

MOSCOW, March 4. (UPI): Soviet voters jammed polls in the nation's three major republics today in elections Mikhail Gorbachev called a "people's referendum" on perestroika.

The elections represent the second stage of the Soviet leader's democratic reforms that began last year with the emergence of a largely freely elected national parliament.

Sunday's multicandidate elections offered voters choices among Russian nationalists, orthodox communists and radical reformers. In some places, up to 20 candidates vied for one spot.

"The essence is that it is a people's referendum on perestroika," Gorbachev told reporters.

"I do hope people will come forward and take greater responsibility for themselves," he said. (See Page 5)



Yeah, it's a giant

Mongolian Prime Minister Dumaagijn Sodnom (right) chats with Hawaiian sumo wrestler Konishiki as the prime minister visits the Sumo stable to see wrestlers practise before leaving for home yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



Protest

A Muslim protestor with his child dressed in shroud is among the demonstrators outside the United Nations military observers office in Srinagar, capital of Jammu and Kashmir state on Thursday before the bloody clashes between protesters and security men in which at least 60 people were killed. (Reuter wirephoto)

fraud.

During voting Feb 28, violence erupted that killed 13 people and Chauthala was blamed.

New Delhi newspapers said today that Singh threatened to quit as Janata Dal president if the party failed to procure Chauthala's resignation.

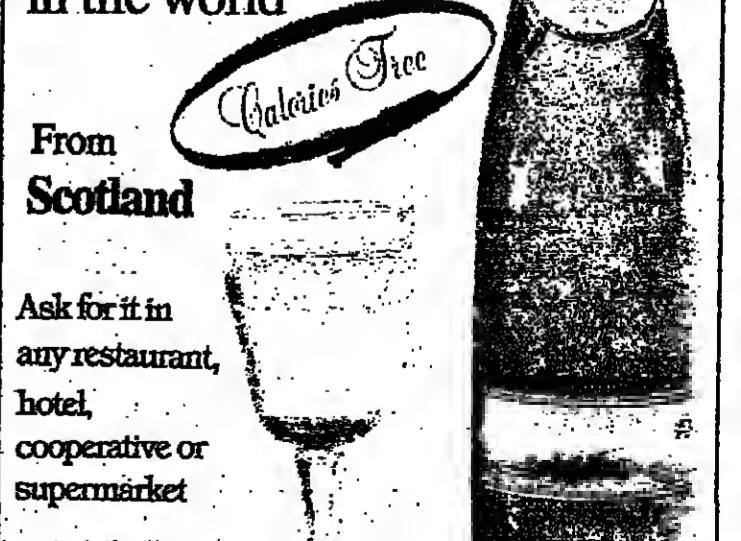
Reddy denied the prime minister's resignation was linked with the Chauthala controversy. He said Singh's decision was in line with his repeated declarations that he would not hold two offices.

V.P. Singh quits as party chief

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Artwork done with elbows

Working only with his elbows, Nanbhau Suryavanshi, painstakingly chalks out an image of the Hindu saint Sai Baba on a Bombay sidewalk as passers-by throw coins on his artwork. Suryavanshi, 50, lost his forearms in a dynamite accident 25 years ago and makes daily sketches of Hindu gods and saints on the pavement to make a living. (Reuter wirephoto)

Internal crisis blown over Janata requests Meham repoll

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 4: In the aftermath of the ugly poll violence witnessed during the assembly by-election in Meham, the Janata Dal was thrown briefly into an internal crisis that at one stage threatened to make a dent in its unity at the top.

But the crisis seemed to have blown over today with the party, in an unprecedented move, recommending to the election commission a repoll in the entire constituency after meeting of its political affairs committee.

The recommendation for the repoll was conveyed to Chief Election Commissioner R.V.S.

Peri Sastry by Prime Minister V.P. Singh himself. This was followed up by a formal letter from the party to the commission.

But the election commission has yet to make up its mind, making it known today that a decision on the repoll would be taken only after its own fact-finding team visited the constituency and came to some conclusions. The team's visit has not taken place yet because of the tense situation in Meham since Feb 28 when several people were killed in violence during a repoll in some polling stations.

Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala is seeking election to the state assembly from Meham. His main rival is a Janata Dal rebel candidate, Anand Singh Danghi.

There were serious allegations of rigging and intimidation of voters on the day of polling, Feb 27, after which the election commission ordered a repoll in several booths the next day. On Feb 28, all hell seemed to have broken loose in some parts of the constituency and at least ten people were reported killed, though unofficial reports put the toll at a much higher figure.

The main allegation was that the mobs went on the rampage at the behest of Chautala himself. The chief minister is also alleged to have used the local police and official machinery to intimidate voters and rig the election.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poindexter set for trial: The trial of former US National Security Adviser John Poindexter, the last major defendant in the Iran-Contra scandal, opens on Monday in a courtroom drama expected to star Ronald Reagan as a sworn witness.

Video-taped testimony by the former president could be at the heart of Poindexter's defense that he was authorized by Reagan to cover up secret White House operations which led to the sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaragua's Contra rebels. (Reuter)

Arm sales drop by 40 per cent: International outbreaks of peace are hitting French arm sales, according to the authoritative daily *Le Monde*.

The paper's weekend edition said French arm sales abroad dropped by 40 per cent in 1989, and no improvement was expected this year.

It quoted defence sources as saying the drop in sales was due to several conflicts ending, some clients becoming indebted, others developing their own weapons and peace negotiations depressing the market as a whole.

It cited provisional estimates by the Defence Ministry that foreign arms sales amounted to between 23 and 25 billion francs (\$4 and 4.3 billion) compared to 37.5 billion francs (\$6.5 billion) in 1988.

Last year's figure was one of the lowest in the 1980s, when sales of French weapons abroad reached a peak of 61.8 billion francs (\$10.6 billion) in 1984.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said he could make no

immediate comment. (Reuter)

Fans sing old national anthem: Iranian soccer fans, assembled in a big stadium outside Tehran, sang the country's old national anthem "O Iran" at the end of matches, in a mild form of protest against the ruling clerics, a rebel radio said on Sunday.

Broadcasting in Persian, apparently from outside the country, the radio said the incident occurred on Friday, when a massive crowd was assembled in the Freedom Stadium to watch two matches between regional teams.

The on-air broadcast said the soccer fans sang the anthem "O Iran", twice, at the end of games, some with tears in their eyes. The Freedom Stadium has a capacity of 100,000 spectators.

The former national anthem was replaced by a more Islamic tune when Iran's clerics took power after the 1979 revolution which toppled the Shah. (UPI)

Thousands flee: A Muslim-inspired uprising in the Kashmir valley has forced thousands of Hindu and Sikh families to flee after threats to their lives and property, officials in India's Jammu and Kashmir state said on Sunday.

Jammu Deputy Police Commissioner Parvez Dewan said in an interview that 7,000 Kashmiri families had fled the troubled valley in recent months and were living in tents on daily rations from the government. (Reuter)

Governor offers new elections

Troops continue raids on Kashmir hideouts

SRINAGAR, March 4. (AP): The governor of India's strife-torn Kashmir territory said today that new elections could be held within six months but banned demonstrations by the increasingly restive Muslim secessionists.

Security forces continued raids on suspected militant hideouts in the northern state wracked by clashes between the pro-independence Muslims rebelling against a government crackdown by thousands of soldiers.

At least 163 people have been killed in India's Jammu-Kashmir state, which includes the Kashmir territory, since the government crackdown began Jan 20 following escalating protests, bombings and attacks on state officials.

"From our side, we are willing to go for a democratic process to decide who should rule the state," said Gov Jagmohan.

"But the democratic process now depends on those who are terrorising people," he said, referring to the Muslim militants who demand Jammu-Kashmir's independence from predominantly Hindu India.

The militants boycotted November's national parliamentary elections and forced residents in Kashmir to stay away from the polls.

Jagmohan said he had been told various militant groups were considering giving up arms and pursuing the democratic process.

Militant groups have called

previously only for the chance to decide themselves whether to become independent or join mostly Muslim Pakistan, which also controls part of the Kashmir territory. Recently they have demanded only independence as a neutral state.

Jagmohan has conceded that the previous state elections in Jammu-Kashmir, held in 1987, were rigged by the governing National Conference Party and its ally, the Congress Party of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Rajiv's successor, Prime Minister V.P. Singh, sacked the state government in January, three years before its term was to expire, and brought it under tight

Karrubi condemned the massacre of the Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir ... he expressed his regret and sorrow over the Indian government's treatment of the Kashmiri Muslims, describing it as irrational and injurious.

"Karrubi advised the Indian government to deal with the issue of the Jammu and Kashmir Muslims in a rational and judicious manner, saying the problem would not be resolved through violence and killing," the radio reported.

ter federal control through the governor's rule.

On Sunday, paramilitary police and soldiers raided homes of separatists' sympathisers and arrested 86 people in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir, state officials said.

State police sources said at least 150 people have been detained for interrogation in the latest crackdown that began on Friday.

Srinagar, a city of one million people and the hotbed of the militant movement, remained under curfew today for a third straight day. Paramilitary troops patrolled the streets with orders to shoot curfew violators on sight.

The curfew was reimposed on Friday after a pro-independence demonstration on Thursday in Srinagar attended by hundreds of thousands. Some estimates said one million people took part, including thousands from neighbouring towns.

Police reportedly opened fire on marchers in at least two incidents, killing more than 40 people, according to witnesses and hospital officials.

"We had relaxed curfew and had allowed people to move but see what happened," Jagmohan said, referring to Thursday's procession.

He said people were allowed out Thursday to celebrate a local festival.



Sri Lankans march for peace

Premadasa may dissolve NE provincial council

COLOMBO, March 4. (Agencies): Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, is likely to dissolve anytime now the North-East provincial council of the island, political sources said today.

This follows the declaration on Thursday by the council's Chief Minister, Varatharaja Perumal, the establishment of the state Tamil 'Elam' in north western Sri Lanka.

The Tamils in the north and the east are living in uncertainty as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil 'Elam' (LTTE), the most feared militant Tamil group, has taken over the districts vacated by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF). The question now being

asked in political circles is what the LTTE will do after the IPKF totally vacates the north-east by March 31, 1990.

More than 1,000 people, dressed in white and led by drum-beating monks, marched through central Sri Lanka today calling for peace on the war-ravaged island.

An organiser of the march, A.T. Ariyaratne, said participants represented all of Sri Lanka's religious and ethnic groups and came from all parts of the country.

"In these times of war, when people are tortured and killed, when the fear element is strong, we want to remove this fear psychosis," he said.

Army takes over power in Ciskei

BISHO, South Africa, March 4. (AP): Thousands of Ciskei homeland residents danced in the streets with soldiers after military officers overthrew the government of the nominally independent black territory today.

Ciskei, most of whose residents are members of the Xhosa tribe, is one of four tribal homelands declared independent by South Africa, but unrecognised by foreign governments. South Africa said today it did not interfere.

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Rebel governor escapes

(Continued from Page 1)

tos and Florendo to Tuguegarao, 220 miles (350 km) north of Manila, to arrest Aguinaldo, 41, a former constabulary colonel indicted on Tuesday for rebellion in connection with the bloody Dec 1-7 coup attempt.

De Villa said Florendo was unarmed and was shot and killed at close range.

At least 19 others, mostly rebels, were killed and scores of civilians were wounded in the gunfire in and around the hotel, regional military spokesman Willie Custodio said. Local officials broadcast appeals for blood donations.

Santos, two town mayors and at least three other senior military officials trapped in the hotel escaped unhurt after the pre-dawn takeover by Aguinaldo and his force of 200 hill tribesmen and rebel returnees.

Acting on orders from Aquino to quell the uprising swiftly, loyalist forces mounted an assault at mid-afternoon, scattering Aguinaldo's men deployed in streets leading to the hotel.

Opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, a former defence minister who helped oust former dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, was one of those indicted along with Aguinaldo and five other people last week in connec-

tion with the December coup attempt.

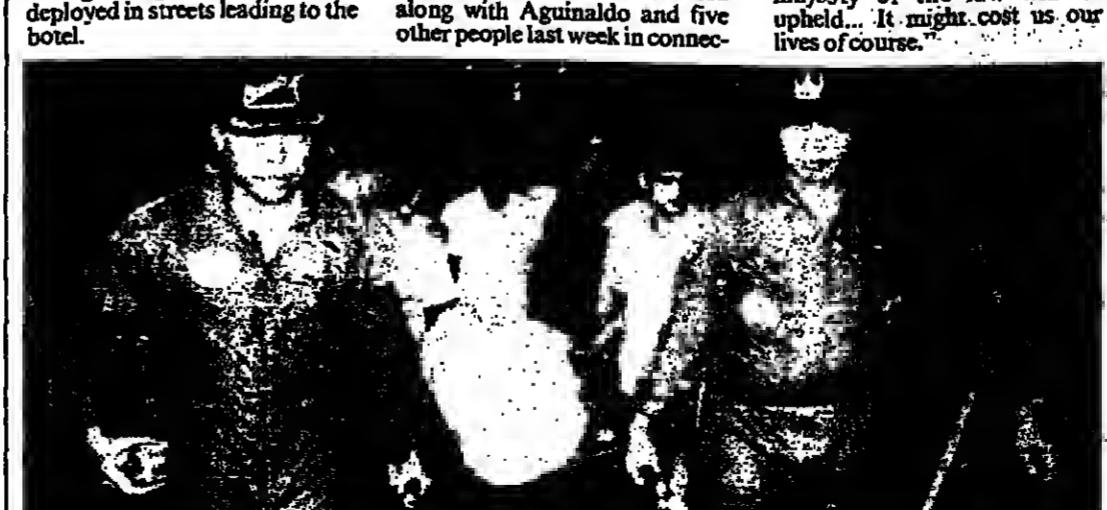
Aquino, in a statement in Manila, denounced the slaying of Florendo as an "act of treachery and cowardice."

"We will see that the fullest force of the law is meted out," Aquino said. "I call on all our people to continue to reject violence and uphold our constitutional democracy."

Aguinaldo struck before dawn, occupying the hotel, which had 54 guests, and deploying his forces around the building. Florendo had told reporters he was on his way to breakfast when he met Aguinaldo, who told him he was a "prisoner of war."

Santos and the other officers were alerted and held Aguinaldo's men to a standoff.

"It's an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation," Santos said at one point in a radio interview from the second floor of the hotel. "We are few, but they are going to have a hard time. The majesty of the law will be upheld... it might cost us our lives of course."



Air force men carry the body of Philippine Army Brigadier-General Oscar Florendo, killed in Tuguegarao when rebel Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo and 600 followers took him hostage after seizing a hotel. The military said Aguinaldo's men shot Florendo. (Reuter wirephoto)

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2/1/90



Keeping 'em busy

A Chinese soldier gives free haircuts to children yesterday on a Beijing street to celebrate the spirit of 'Lei Feng'. Lei Feng, a model worker and socialist super-hero popular during the Cultural Revolution, has made a comeback with resurgence of hardline policies in China. His example is used as a tool to get people to work harder and follow the socialist path. (Reuter wirephoto)

PEOPLES AND PLACES

OLYMPIA, Washington: Who will speak appreciatively for the purple **petals**?

Nobody in his right mind, one weed expert said Monday after the Washington state senate approved a legislation to kill the bushy garden flower with herbicides and ban its sale or use. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives.

"It's a nightmare spreading across Washington," Rick Johnson said of the European weed, which is choking wetlands across the northern United States. Johnson is Thurston county's noxious-weed control co-ordinator.

Each stalk of the plant contains maybe a million seeds; 300,000 of which are viable.

The bill provides one million dollars to eradicate purple loosestrife. Other states have banned or placed restrictions on its sale. (AP)

PETAL, Mississippi: Some American students hope they will make the right moves during a trip to the Soviet Union next month.

Ten students from Petal Middle School, ages 11 to 13, will participate in a special checkers tournament during the international peace conference.

The trip is the idea of Charles Walker, founder and director of the International Checkers Hall of Fame in Petal, a small town near Hattiesburg.

During their two-week trip, the students also will attend the Pioneer Palace School for the gifted in Moscow.

The wife of the director of the Russian Draughts Association teaches at the Pioneer Palace School, which sponsors the annual peace conference. This is how the union of peace was born between checkers — the American version of the British game of draughts — and the Russian version of draughts, said Carolyn Lucas, secretary of the International Checkers Hall of Fame.

Canadians
Sun revolves around Earth

MONTREAL, March 4, (Kuna): Five centuries after Galileo Galilei risked his life to prove that the sun does not revolve around the Earth, more than 15 per cent of Canadians still think that it does. And almost one half of Canadians do not know that it takes one year for the Earth to go around the sun.

A survey on the scientific knowledge of Canadians asked basic questions of 2,000 people across the country.

About four in 10 do not know or do not accept that humans evolved from the ape. And about half think that humans who have only existed for 5,000,000 years, once lived side by side with the dinosaur which became extinct 65 million years ago.

"How depressing," said Dr. Rose Sheinen, vice-rector for academic affairs at Concordia University in Montreal. The survey also pinpoints two groups of Canadians who are particularly ignorant — French Canadians and women in general.

While at Pioneer Palace, students will compose a peace book of songs, poems and drawings and put handprints in a cement memorial, Lucas said. (AP)

CHANDLER, Arizona: Members of the rock group Aerosmith now shun drugs but will not use the stage to denounce anti-drug messages to teenagers, lead singer Steven Tyler says.

"I will never go up on a soapbox and preach to the kids, I don't do, don't do, don't do. I can only show them by example," Tyler said in an interview before a scheduled Wednesday night concert.

"I can only say don't get started on drugs and try them because it'll

Much work remains to end sexism: UN

UNITED NATIONS, March 4, (AP): The debt crisis gripping countries around the world poses dire conditions for women and creates a somber outlook for efforts to wipe out sex discrimination and exploitation, US experts and activists say.

The observance of International Women's Day on March 8 and related activities worldwide will focus attention on equal rights for men and women.

Even though experts say there has been progress since the UN "Decade for Women" from 1976 to 1985 highlighted the gender gap and related problems, they paint a dismal picture of the situation in many nations.

"There has been some progress worldwide in life expectancy for women, declines in infant mortality and improvements in nutrition," said Vivian Lowery Derryck, president of the African-American Institute in New York. "But when you get to the equality issues, the picture is starkly gloomy."

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a special address to mark International Women's Day, plans to call for a renewed global commitment to improve conditions for women.

"The problems we are facing cannot be resolved by the efforts of only half the population of the globe," the UN chief says in the prepared statement. "Both

men and women must work together as equal partners in order to ensure a sustainable future for the generation to come."

The UN commission on the status for women will conclude a two-week session in Geneva this Friday that has concentrated on political and economic obstacles facing women. It gave special attention to areas affected by armed conflicts or foreign intervention.

Despite heightened attention to the problems, recent UN reports stress there is much more to be done.

"Poor women have become poorer, more women are poor, and women are now poorer in relation to men," one UN

report says. "Through their hard work they try to ensure the survival of the poorest segments of the population, but at great cost to themselves."

"This drain on women's time, resources and energy also inhibits their ability to participate in political life and hence in having an influence in changing the policies which affect them so adversely."

Economic problems also have diminished opportunities for young women, particularly in Latin America and Africa, the report says.

"The crisis has diminished educational and economic opportunities for young women, thus affecting their future ability to contribute to society on an equal basis

with men," it says.

Deteriorating economic conditions have forced women to turn to begging, prostitution and other "quasi-legal and illicit activities" in India, Peru and several African nations, according to a Unicef survey.

A Unicef-sponsored study on Mexico found that the economic crisis had worsened conditions for women, particularly in rural areas. Because families could no longer survive intact in the countryside, young women were forced to migrate to find work.

The Unicef report said women were pulled off the land to work as day labourers.

Deplorable conditions

Space data storage

WASHINGTON, March 4, (AP): Hundreds of thousands of tapes containing irreplaceable scientific data from US space explorations are stored in "deplorable" conditions, including dusty halfways and leaky basements, the General Accounting Office said.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration took strong exception to the GAO, saying the conclusions were "unnecessarily harsh" in tone and contained unfounded "sweeping generalizations."

The GAO, an investigative agency of Congress, in turn rejected NASA's criticism and said there was reason for concern that space science data stored on magnetic tape was "at serious risk of becoming partially or completely unusable."

The congressional monitors said they had visited 10 tape storage and processing facilities and had found that eight did not comply with at least two of the regulations established by the national archives and records administration for the handling of magnetic tapes.

The GAO said that "some of the most significant tape management deficiencies" were found in the two largest facilities.

These two are the National Space Science Data Centre at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, which stores more than 113,000 magnetic tapes, and the tape staging and storage facility in Landover, Maryland, which stores and tracks more than 860,000 tapes.

By contrast, it said the US Geological Survey's Eros Data Centre in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the Digital Equipment Corp.'s data protection services in Dominguez Hills, California, were in full or partial compliance with federal standards and industry guidelines.

Other facilities visited were the national archives' Los Angeles Federal Records Centre in Laguna Niguel, California, and its Washington National

Records Centre, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, Washington, the multi-mission image processing facility of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the infrared processing and analysis Centre of the California Institute of Technology, both in Pasadena, California, and the centre for Astrophysics and Space Sciences of the University of California in La Jolla, California.

In a summary of its findings, the GAO said, "hundreds of thousands of tapes containing space science data are stored under deplorable conditions."

It said five of the facilities, storing almost 500,000 of the 1.2 million tapes from NASA missions, complies with not more than half of the federal standards and industry guidelines.

The congressional monitors

said they had visited 10 tape storage and processing facilities and had found that eight did not comply with at least two of the regulations established by the national archives and records administration for the handling of magnetic tapes.

The GAO said that "some of the most significant tape management deficiencies" were found in the two largest facilities.

These two are the National Space Science Data Centre at the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, which stores more than 113,000 magnetic tapes, and the tape staging and storage facility in Landover, Maryland, which stores and tracks more than 860,000 tapes.

By contrast, it said the US Geological Survey's Eros Data Centre in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and the Digital Equipment Corp.'s data protection services in Dominguez Hills, California, were in full or partial compliance with federal standards and industry guidelines.

Other facilities visited were the national archives' Los Angeles Federal Records Centre in Laguna Niguel, California, and its Washington National

Bonfire of the vanities Trump saga goes on...

NEW YORK, March 4, (Reuter): Trump. Trump. Trump. The endless march of publicity on Donald Trump's marital break-up shows no signs of slowing.

But the latest twist has New Yorkers wondering if it all isn't just a publicity stunt for the billionaire's latest preoccupations — a girlfriend and new

casino. Don't think that three weeks after the news of the split between Trump and his Czechoslovak fashion model wife, Ivana, you can now pick up a New York tabloid without getting a daily dose of Trump talk, Trump trivia or Trump tales.

Trump, who has a tower, an airline, a bestseller, a vacant lot and a board game named after him among other ventures, doesn't seem ready to let interest sag.

The divorce publicity has given him a platform that has put his name on page one. A spokesman claims the Trump name has sent crowds scurrying for glimpses of the Trump Princess yacht as it sails in Asia.

As Trump modestly declared, his split with Ivana is bigger than Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton."

In his latest interview with a Trump-hungry New

York press, he has told the New York Post that he plans to take actress Marla Maples to the opening of his Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City in April.

Maples is said to be the other woman in the divorce saga.

The National Enquirer wants to pay Marla a million dollars for her story. Penthouse and Playboy want her to pose naked.

People magazine has made her a cover story and her alleged comment to a friend that a night with Donald was "the best sex I've ever had" is a best-selling T-shirt after appearing as a headline in the New York Post and boasting circulation by 46,000 copies. It is also soon to be a slogan on a cup.

The Taj Mahal is the third casino he owns in Atlantic City, a billion dollar structure experts say will need a million dollars a day in business to turn a profit.

"The day mankind has breathlessly awaited is upon us," said Post columnist Cindy Adams as she revealed that Donald and Marla will be arm-in-arm at the Taj's opening.

According to New York newspapermen, Trump is calling a lot of the shots himself as he makes the rounds of television stations, saying how upset he is about the publicity.

Study sees link between coffee, heart

LONDON, March 4, (Reuters): A study of nearly 40,000 people has shown there may be a link between high coffee consumption and death from heart disease, according to Norwegian researchers.

Their study, published in the British medical journal said on the links between coffee and heart disease but the Norwegian researchers said their survey, the largest so far, was the first to take account of other factors such as stress and smoking.

The study, in which 38,564 people took part, found that levels of cholesterol, a fatty substance in the blood which can contribute to heart disease, increased as more coffee was drunk each day and the death rate rose steadily among men who consumed more than two cups daily.

There were fewer deaths among women and excess risk was found only among those who drink more than seven cups a day.

Other studies have shown the coffee-cholesterol link is strongest for boiled coffee.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Save rare gorilla: An all-out effort to save one of the world's rarest animals, the African mountain gorilla, is succeeding. Ugandan experts said on Sunday.

Tourism and Wildlife Ministry officials told Reuters they believe mountain gorilla numbers have increased by about 150 in the past four years to roughly 450 following a crackdown on poaching and a ban on exports to overseas zoos.

Michael Ediku, the warden in charge of mountain gorilla preservation here, said more than half of the world's remaining 800 mountain gorillas now live in Uganda.

Gorilla areas in Rwanda and Zaire are attracting many tourists from overseas. The number of tourists to Rwanda has boomed since the release of the film "Gorillas in the Mist" telling the story of Diane Fossey who was murdered in a remote Rwandan mountain camp where she spent years gaining the trust of the gorillas.

Bongo: 'I will go' — Legislators and ruling party leaders have postponed elections in this oil-rich one-party state of West Africa, and President Omar Bongo promised to step down if he does not win enough votes.

The beleaguered president made the pledge in an interview with the independent French Television Five yesterday, ending a week in which he fired nine cabinet ministers in a bid to end protests and strikes that closed the capital's airport for three days, disrupted telephone and telex communications, and brought power cuts and gasoline shortages.

Bongo said in the interview that he was unaware of protesters' demands that he surrender power.

"If the Gabonese no longer have confidence in me, I will go," he said. "But I did not come to power in a coup, I can leave only when there is an election."

Bongo, one of only a handful of civilian leaders in the region, has ignored strikers' demands for a multiparty state in the country he has ruled since 1968.

Shot at elections: Voters in the Indian Ocean's Comoro Islands went to the polls Sunday in the tiny archipelago's second attempt in three weeks to hold a presidential election.

The four islands, 200 miles (320 km) east of the Mozambique Coast, have not held an independent presidential election since 1975, when they gained independence from France. Their first attempt, on Feb. 18 this year, was called off after opposition leaders accused acting President Said Mohammed Dahir of cheating.

It was found that "indelible" ink used to mark the hands of those who had already voted that day was not indelible as had been supposed. All vote-counts were declared invalid.

Christians protest: Ugandan church leaders were Sunday up in arms at a government suggestion that the Bible and the condom should stand side by side on hotel room bedside tables.

A storm of protest swept the East African country — which has the highest reported number of AIDS cases on the continent — after a government-sponsored advertisement appeared last week in a prominent independent newspaper.

The advertisement ran: "While the Bible can save your soul, the condom will save your life."

Letters have poured into local and national newspapers protesting against both the advertisement and the plan to offer hotel guests a choice between spirit and flesh.

House collapses: 7 die in Dhaka

DHAKA, March 4, (Agencies): A mud house collapsed during heavy rain and killed seven members of a family, including a newborn baby, in the southern sea resort town of Cox's Bazaar, police said today.

Three other people were injured in the collapse which occurred yesterday on the outskirts of Cox's Bazaar, 296 kilometres (185 miles) southeast of Dhaka, police said.

The police, contacted by telephone and speaking on condition they not be identified, said two days of heavy rains had disrupted life in Cox's Bazaar, famous for its sandy beaches on the Bay of Bengal.

Khmer recovers from offensive shock

Fierce fighting for Svay Chek

BANGKOK, March 4, (UPI): Cambodian resistance forces fought a series of battles against government troops around the recently recaptured town of Svay Chek in western Cambodia, both sides reported today.

The resistance said its forces were closing in on a government contingent that captured the strategically important town 15 miles (25 km) from the Thai border last week, but government radio said its troops inflicted heavy casualties on the guerrillas.

Military analysts in Bangkok said it appeared the resistance had recovered from the shock of a sudden government offensive in the past 10 days that rolled over a dozen resistance outposts.

With new supplies of ammu-

Mine blast in invasion tunnel

None hurt; Seoul troops comb passage

SEOUL, March 4, (Reuters): A mine explosion stopped South Korean troops investigating today a newly-found North Korean invasion tunnel to the South, but no one was injured in the blast, the Defence Ministry said.

"A mine exploded during a search operation, killing a sniffer dog, but no one was injured," a ministry spokesman said.

"We had removed several other mines and barriers apparently set up by North Korea to sabotage our operations."

The ministry, announcing yesterday the discovery of the tunnel in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating two Koreas, said the North could send 30,000 soldiers and scores of armoured vehicles through the tunnel within an hour.

Defence Minister Lee Sang-Hoon said he believed the tunnel, found 1.2 km (about three quarters of a mile) into South Korean territory, was probably one of about 20 built by North Korea across the border as secret

routes for infiltration.

The two countries have been technically at war despite a 1953 truce ending the three-year Korean war.

Lee could not say when the tunnel, the fourth discovered from the North since 1974, was built.

"We will have to carry out a thorough investigation of the tunnel to establish when they built it in knee-deep water and various traps laid out by North Korea are hampering our operations," the ministry spokesman said.

South Korea has accused the North of amassing troops near the border and of putting finishing touches to plans for a surprise drive on its capital, Seoul, less than an hour's drive from the DMZ.

Officials said despite the blast they planned to continue searching through the tunnel below the South-North military demarcation line in the Demilitarized Zone.

The tunnel appears to have been construc-

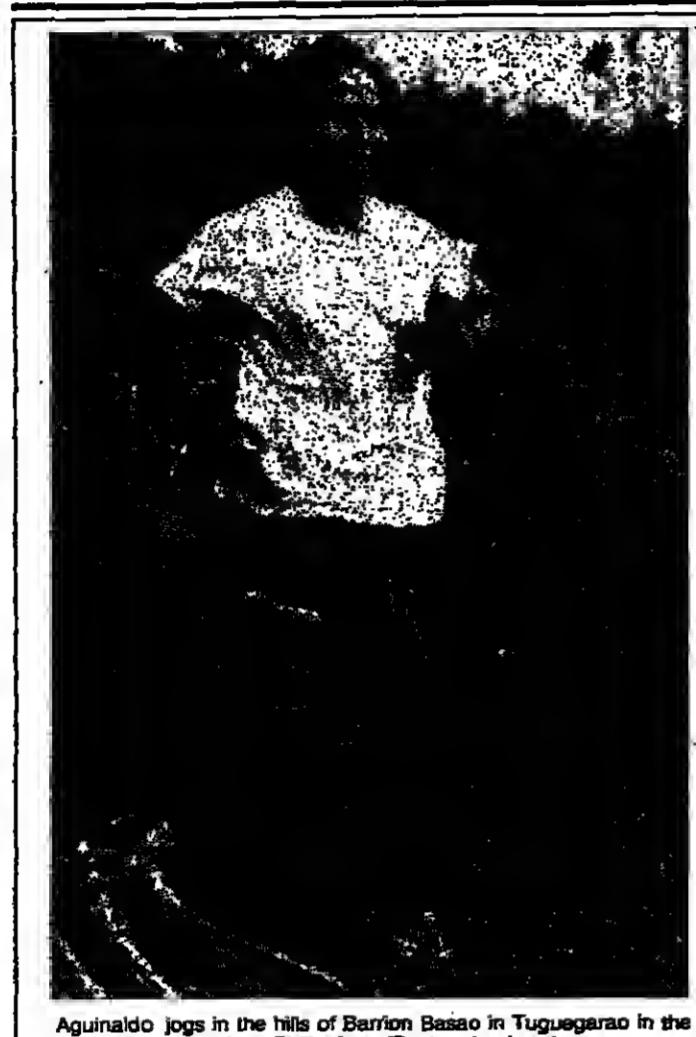
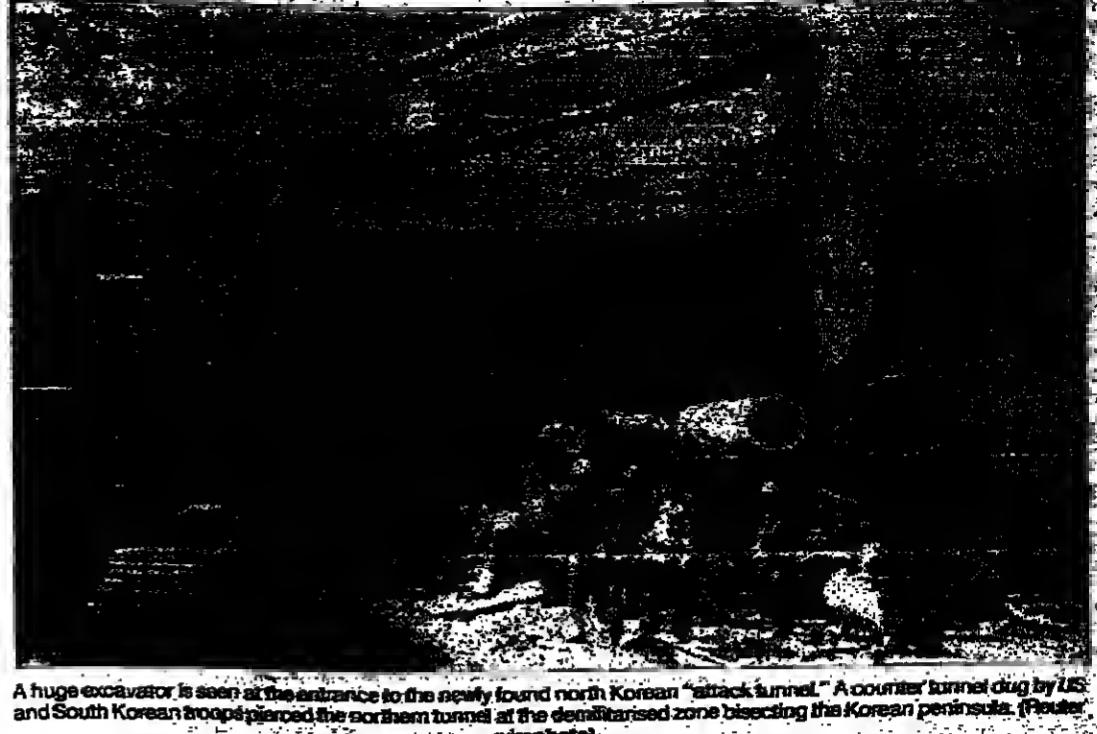
ted in the 1980s, unlike three others discovered between 1974 and 1978, the officials said.

The latest tunnel is located north of Yangju, 65 miles (100 km) northeast of Seoul. It was spotted by US and South Korean mine detection experts and its existence was confirmed yesterday afternoon when it was penetrated by a shaft dug by the South.

Officials said the searchers found pieces of electric wires, some supporting beams, insulators and a North Korean slogan written on the wall of the tunnel, but they did not disclose what the message said.

Lee said South Korea could continue its search for more tunnels, saying new scientific devices improved the country's chances of finding the secret passageways.

"This is not only a violation of the Korean military armistice agreement but also an undeniable act of aggression," Lee said of the latest discovery.



Aguinaldo jogs in the hills of Barrion Basao in Tuguegarao in the northern Philippines. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rebel governor is a chameleon

MANILA, March 4, (Reuters): Rodolfo Aguinaldo, the suspended governor and ex-colonel who seized a hotel and several hostages in the northern Philippines today, plays a dangerous game of switching allegiances.

Once a bright young officer, he is now on the run from his former military colleagues.

"Get Aguinaldo at all costs," ordered armed forces commander General Renato De Vilia today.

Aguinaldo had an earlier brush with rebellion in August 1987 when numerous soldiers launched a coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino and he proclaimed his support for them from his remote northern province of Cagayan.

The revolt was crushed and Aguinaldo was kicked out of the military, although never formally charged.

He remained a dashing figure in his region, dressing casually in rubber sappers, but dropping himself with belts of hand grenades and throwing grenades wherever he went.

He ran for provincial governor in January 1988 and won by a landslide.

In an interview two years ago this week, Aguinaldo sang the praises of democracy and the constitution, declaring himself part of the system.

"There are limitations in the military. As a politician, I will be able to do more," he told Reuters in Manila in 1988.

"I don't want to wait until I'm a general to be able to change things. I want to prove ... there's hope for change through the constitution, not through war."

It seems he changed his mind.

When soldiers tried, for a sixth time last December to overthrow Aquino, Aguinaldo voice his support for the mutineers on local radio.

That army revolt also failed and in January Aguinaldo was suspended as Cagayan governor for 60 days for his alleged role in supporting the mutiny.

At first he refused to step down, but after a stand-off with the government finally agreed.

He was later charged, along with Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, with murder and rebellion in connection with the coup attempt. Aguinaldo rejected the charges and refused to give himself up, saying he had not physically joined the mutiny.

He first made a name for himself as an intelligence officer in the paramilitary constabulary and later was a key figure in the reforms the armed forces underwent of junior and middle-rank officers who helped topple former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Before being elected governor, he served as commander of the constabulary in Cagayan.

A slim man whose friends put his age at about 40, he has a reputation as a ruthless anti-communist fighter.

Local officials say he has been backed by private armies of as many as 2,000 men in the Cagayan region, an area infested with communist guerrillas.

China revives a spirit

Beijing takes help of Maoist saint to prop up regime

BEIJING, March 4, (Reuters): Children read about him. Adults talk about him. Everybody is asked to emulate Maoist saint Lei Feng.

China has resurrected the selfless soldier who nearly faded into oblivion but is now being called on to revive flagging revolutionary zeal since a bloody army crackdown last June.

Hardline Marxist leaders have brought back Lei, the smiling peasant boy whose unquestioning faith in the party and tireless energy earned

him the nickname the "trust-proof screw" and inspired millions in the early days of communist rule.

His exploits had been quietly set aside, seen by pragmatists as out of date in the hey day of reforms begun in 1978.

But that has changed since hardliners crushed a pro-democracy campaign with heavy loss of life and stopped reforms from power in June.

ted intellectual.

The army in particular is in need of help from little Lei. Its bloody assault on unarmed protesters has seriously damaged its credibility as a "People's Army," according to Western analysts.

Yang Bajing, a key member of the Communist Party's powerful military commission, has written a preface to a new edition of Lei's diary.

"Some people believe that the spirit of Lei Feng went out with the 1980s. That is wrong," he says.

"The spirit of Lei Feng re-emerged in our soldiers who put down the counter-revolutionary rebellion last June and who enforced martial law," imposed in Beijing shortly before troops moved in.

"Any director would enjoy the challenge of bringing Lei Feng's deeds to a television audience," she said. But she noted that the 1980s role model needed to be updated to satisfy present day viewers.

Abidjan puts off austerity measures

ABIDJAN, March 4, (UPI): President Félix Houphouët-Boigny's embattled government postponed indefinitely Sunday announcement of an unpopular package of austerity pay cuts that have sparked two weeks of rioting and widespread unrest.

It is a project endorsed by the central military commission which has pressed for a quick completion, according to people familiar with the series.

The colour drama, scheduled to be shown this week, will make its television debut after years in the celluloid wilderness.

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The government postponed indefinitely introduction of the measures, which were to be announced Monday, the state-run radio dispatch said. Western diplomats described the postponement as a "downing of the 1980s role model needed to be updated to satisfy present day viewers.

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Taiwan elderly defy Lee, back Lin

TAIPEI, March 4, (AP): A group of aged national assemblymen from the governing Nationalist Party defiantly endorsed a rival candidate today to challenge President Lee Teng-Hui in a presidential election this month.

Meeting at a Taipei restaurant, the assemblymen shouted their opposition to the party's nomination of Lee and instead threw their support behind Lin Yung-Kang, the popular head of Taiwan's judiciary.

They named Chiang Wei-73, the sole surviving son of nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek, as their running mate.

"We unanimously support this perfect team to run for the presidential election," announced assemblymen Teng Chieh to cheers from the crowd of about 200 assemblymen that included several independent politicians.

Teng predicted more than 350 assemblymen in the 752-seat national assembly, the electoral college dominated by elderly politicians, will support Lin and Chiang when it votes for a president March 21.

The president is elected by a simple majority in the legislature. There is no direct popular vote for president.

Teng described Lin, 62, as a "capable and courageous leader" and said Chiang still has supporters in China because of his family's historical ties and this could help the nationalists regain the mainland held mainland.

The elderly assemblymen, who fled to Taiwan in 1949 when the nationalists lost a civil war in China, continue to hope for a victorious nationalist return to the mainland.

The revolt by the elderly assemblymen was considered a serious blow for the nationalists, whose unity has given them a virtual stranglehold on politics in Taiwan since they fled the mainland.

The resistance group loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk broadcast charges that 10,000 Vietnamese troops have recently been flown to western Cambodia to help government forces

NEWS IN BRIEF

Racial attack

FLORENCE, Italy, March 4. (Reuters): Racial tension increased in Florence yesterday as demonstrators protested against an alleged attack, the second in less than a week, against North African immigrants.

A 25-year-old woman was injured when protesters clashed with police outside a hotel where the Neo-Fascist MSI-DS Party was holding a meeting. The demonstrators shouted slogans accusing the party of stirring up racial hatred.

Aurelius rides again

ROME, March 4. (Reuters): Marcus Aurelius, the only bronze equestrian figure to survive from Imperial Rome, will ride again on Rome's capitol hill next month, over nine years after the ravages of urban pollution forced experts to remove him.

Dubcek in Paris

PARIS, March 4. (UPI): Czechoslovak parliament President Alexander Dubcek began a two-day visit to France today, saying Prague wishes to adopt a "pluralist parliamentary system."

Dubcek arrived at Orly airport together with his wife Anna and Jiri Hajek, who was his foreign minister in 1968 before the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia.

Bows to pressure

PARIS, March 4. (Reuters): French Prime Minister Michel Rocard bowed to political pressure today and cancelled decrees allowing police to keep computer files detailing a person's race and political and religious beliefs.

Rocard, who was under fire from both left and right, issued a new decree scrapping the other two, which he signed only last month, giving police a right to keep the files as part of their fight against terrorism.

Union disbands

PRAGUE, March 4. (AP): An extraordinary congress of the official trade union yesterday founded a new Czechoslovak confederation of unions after voting to disband the old union structure, the state news agency CTK reported.

Antarctica — a land without mercy: expeditionists

PARIS, March 4. (AP): Six weary but jubilant adventurers from six nations completed a seven-month, 3,800-mile (6,114-km) trek across Antarctica on skis and dog sleds yesterday, in the longest unassisted crossing of the continent.

"It's a dangerous land, without mercy," co-leader Jean-Louis Etienne of France told French television moments after the team arrived at a Soviet base in the Indian Ocean coast.

The men were given a huge loaf of fresh bread and chugged champagne as the flags of their homelands flapped above them in a strong wind.

Besides Etienne, the team included US co-leader Will



Soreia Popa, daughter of Major General Gica Popa, is consoled by a family friend at the funeral of her father. Popa, who was the President of the military tribunal which sentenced to death Nicolae Ceausescu committed suicide last Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Romania retires more generals

BUCHAREST, March 4. (Agencies): Generals who were reactivated during the December revolution that overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu have been replaced with "younger and more competent" ones, state-run TV announced yesterday.

The decision was made by a mixed civilian-military government committee on military affairs, and was discussed at a meeting Thursday between the committee, Prime Minister Petre Roman, and Defence Minister Gen Col. Victor Antonescu Stanulescu.

The committee was created two weeks ago to investigate demands by several hundred rebelling officers, who demanded the resignation of then-Defence Minister Nicolae Minulescu, who came out of retirement during the revolution.

The officers also demanded a purge of allegedly incompetent officers and those tainted by the former regime of Ceausescu.

Roman told the committee that "inclination to cover up the army's role in the revolution has disappeared" with the appointment of Stanulescu, adding that "in general, the army took the side of the people," TV said.

The report said the committee decided "to retire a group of generals and senior officers reactivated (along with Minulescu) on Dec. 22, replacing them with younger and more competent officers." It added, however, that "some officers were retained for a strictly defined period." It did not elaborate.

Steger of Ely, Minnesota, Victor Boyarsky of the Soviet Union, Geoff Somers of Britain, Quin Dahe of China, and Keizo Funatsu of Japan.

Interviewed on US television, Steger was asked what he intends to do now that the journey has ended. He laughed and said: "Take a sauna. Look forward to the sun."

"We can relax and join the human race again," he said. "The expedition almost ended in tragedy in its final hours. As the team struggled through a storm toward the Soviet research base of Mirny, Funatsu disappeared in a blizzard for 11 hours before he was found Friday.

Steger said it was "very close. We were lucky we found him."

Joint Operations (Kuwait Oil Company & Getty Oil Company)

Joint Operations (Kuwait Oil Company & Getty Oil Company) announces the tender for:

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Tender involves pre-qualification of previous experience and capabilities of all interested companies.

Pre-qualification documents and tender documents should be collected from Contracts Administration Office at Joint Operations, Wafra, Kuwait during the official working hours from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm not later than April 1st, 1990 against non-refundable fees of KD. 300/-

Obligatory Pre-Tender meeting will be held in Wafra at 9:00 am on April 2nd, 1990, and closing date is before 9:00 am on April 22, 1990.

Britons protest community charge

LONDON, March 4. (Agencies): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's crusade to hush socialism has hit its most serious obstacle yet.

A Gallup poll published on Friday put the Conservatives 18.5 points behind the opposition Labour Party, their worst showing in nearly 20 years.

On Saturday, thousands of protesters — many self-described Tory voters — marched noisily in demonstrations around the country.

The peaceful demonstrations in Plymouth, Taunton, Bristol and Manchester included families pushing trolleys and senior citizens carrying "No poll tax" placards.

Thatcher's idea seemed simple initially.

Instead of having homeowners pay varying amounts of taxes on their property, have local councils estimate their annual expenses, then divide the costs equally among all adults in the district.

Since most local councils are run by

socialists, and since socialists are big spenders, the voters will quickly discover the cost of electing socialists, Thatcher reasoned. The new tax, formally known as a community charge, thus became known as the poll tax.

The government figured that under the new system, which took effect this year, each adult would pay about \$472. Instead as amounts are announced, the average is shaping up to be \$630 and surveys show most households will pay one-third more

than under the previous system.

Thatcher insists that this is due to Socialism's profligacy, and she accuses councils of exploiting the tax reform to raise in cash. But high charges have also been levied in conservative-run districts.

A survey in The Times of London on Friday showed that community charges in only three of 69 local councils were close to the \$472 estimate. Most showed increases of 30 per cent to 50 per cent over last year.

Gorbachev ready to become executive head

Heavy turnout for key Soviet polls

MOSCOW, March 4. (Agencies): Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev said today he was ready to accept nomination as the Soviet Union's first executive president, a post which would give him sweeping new powers.

Gorbachev, speaking to reporters after voting in local and regional elections, said the Soviet people were looking for strong leadership in a period of economic, social and political turmoil.

"In my opinion, it would not be understandable to our people if I used the current situation and began to withdraw," said Gorbachev who personally piloted the proposal for a stronger presidency through the Supreme Soviet on February 27.

"They demanded that the government reply to their petition by Wednesday noon or protesters would go on hunger strike," said a Western resident in the Mongolian capital.

The ultimatum was delivered by four loosely-aligned opposition groups campaigning for an end to Mongolia's 69-year-old communist system.

Shortly after receiving the petition, senior government official B. Lusvansuren emerged from the Parliament building to tell a roaring crowd that the government would reply to the demands by Wednesday.

"He said the government would make its reply by television and radio," said one resident who witnessed the rally.

The rally was the seventh staged in Ulan Bator since the first opposition group, the Mongolian Democratic Association, was formed last December. Residents said it was the biggest yet.

"There were about 20,000 people out there, marching with banners," said one resident.

The East German news agency ADN, monitored in East Berlin, estimated 40,000 people demonstrated in the capital's Sache-Bator Square.

Estimates of numbers at previous rallies have varied but none have topped 10,000.

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"I will not put myself forward ... but if I am put forward I will not avoid it. This is certain," said Gorbachev, speaking of the new executive presidency.

Creation of the new position has been agreed by the Supreme Soviet, the standing Parliament, but has still to be approved by the Congress of People's Deputies.

Gorbachev casts his vote in a Moscow polling station. (Reuters wirephoto)

Parknet protesters, police clash

Several killed as unrest hits Uzbek

MOSCOW, March 4. (Agencies): A new wave of ethnic violence had nothing to do with local elections on February 18, which some Uzbek activists have described as fraudulent.

The Meskhetians, originally from the Soviet republic of Georgia, were deported to Central Asia in 1944 by dictator Josef Stalin. More than 50,000 have fled the region since violence last June.

Central Asia, particularly Uzbekistan, has been one of the focal points of ethnic unrest which has rocked Soviet republics over the past two years and threatened to compromise President Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme.

At least 110 people were killed last June in Uzbekistan's Ferghana Valley when Uzbeks attacked ethnic Turks in their homes and on the streets.

Interior security soldiers clashed with demonstrators yesterday in a city near Tashkent, and some protesters were killed, local activists and official sources said.

Abdurashid Sharif, a spokesman for the Uzbekistan grassroots organisation Berlik said in a telephone interview from Tashkent that soldiers fired on peaceful demonstrators in the city of Parkent.

The correspondent said the

Pravda publishes radical manifesto

MOSCOW, March 4. (UPI): The Communist Party's radical wing warned yesterday that only a total overhaul can prevent the party, "cluttered with privileges and sunk in corruption," from completely losing power as in Poland or resorting to brute force like in China.

Pravda, the party's official newspaper, published the democratic platform in a stunning concession of its growing radical forces, who called for the resignation of the entire ruling Politburo and Central Committee in another sign that the party is headed toward a split.

The platform, among the most radical documents ever published by the official Soviet press, would almost surely have been grounds for arrest as recently as five years ago if a similar manifesto had been distributed on the street.

"We, communists representing 162 party clubs and organisations from 102 cities in 13 republics of the country, are united on a democratic platform," it said.

"The ruling party bears the main responsibility for a further deepening of the crisis that has brought society to a dangerous precipice," the platform said.

The radical communists, led by Yuri Afanasyev, Boris Yeltsin and other progressive members of the Soviet Parliament, said they would present the platform at the 28th party congress in early summer.

In an editorial comment preceding the document, Pravda said its publication represents "a continuation of the principled course of the newspaper."

"We are anxious to present on our pages a broad range of opinions, ideas and approaches toward renewing the party," Pravda said.

With Pravda headed since last fall by a former close adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev, Ivan Frolov, and the Soviet leader's recent signs that he is about to accelerate his "perestroika" reform drive, the platform's publication may indicate that Gorbachev is prepared to join radical communists in an all-out attack on conservatives.

The Tashkent television correspondent, contacted from Moscow, said the extremists began hurling stones at police who fought back.

After the violence subsided, the chairman of the Uzbek council of ministers, M. Mirkayumov, went on local television and promised that those responsible would be punished.

The correspondent said the

Regain land or quit, Kohl told

BONN, March 4. (Reuters): Right-wing West Germans challenged Chancellor Helmut Kohl today to regain lost land from Poland or resign just as Paris and Moscow geared up to support Warsaw on its border claims from a united Germany.

"We would rather forego (Kohl's) coalition than a part of the German homeland," insisted Herbert Czaja, head of an influential pressure group of Germans thrown out of Eastern Europe after World War Two.

If the government fails to cover the border issue, we will have to have early elections," said Czaja, whose Expellees' League and its demands — rejected by most voters — loom as a possible spoiler to Kohl's hopes for re-election in December.

Czaja, a Christian Democratic (CDU) member of parliament like Kohl, raised the stakes in the unity debate a day after the chancellor's liberal coalition partners denounced his decision demanding that Warsaw renounce any wartime reparations claims.

Kohl, walking a tightrope between pleasing the far right and calming Poland, said neither on Friday

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INTERNATIONAL

NEWS IN BRIEF



Join at rugby

Princess Anna speaks with Welsh rugby team manager Clive Rowlands (left) while her estranged husband Mark Phillips enjoys the Wales versus Scotland rugby match at the national stadium. Although they live apart, they were both at the match with their two children.

Aid cut

WASHINGTON, March 4, (UPI): The US Congress could cut off or slash \$138.5 million in military aid and \$546.2 million in economic aid to El Salvador but would run into stiff resistance from the administration, the General Accounting Office said yesterday.

In a report to US Senator Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, Gao — the Congressional watchdog agency — said the money is in the "pipeline" and could still be aborted before reaching El Salvador.

Kennedy requested the information to back his call for a cutoff of aid to El Salvador pending steps to end the civil war, restore human rights and prosecute those responsible for the murder of six Jesuit priests last November.

Bush lauds donation

RANCHO MIRAGE, California, March 4, (UPI): President George Bush is hailing former ambassador Walter Annenberg's \$50 million donation to the United Negro College Fund as "one of the most brilliant thousand points of light I can think of."

Speaking with reporters yesterday before he was to officiate over the donation ceremony today Bush seemed surprised that word of the contribution, the largest gift to black colleges on record, had leaked out.

But, he said, "I think that generosity ... will bring on well-deserved support from others. It's most generous and one of the most brilliant thousand points of light I can think of."

The New York Times first reported word that Annenberg, 82, the former US ambassador to Britain, was to announce the gift, among the largest contributions ever made to American higher education, today morning at his estate near Palm Springs, California.

Kidnapping spree

BOGOTA, March 4, (AP): Twenty people, including mayors and other public officials, were in the hands of Colombian guerrillas yesterday as the rebels mounted a kidnapping campaign in an apparent attempt to disrupt next week's national elections.

Colombians elect mayors and congressmen March 11.

The National Liberation Army, an insurgent group led by a former priest, kidnapped 20 people in the past three days, police said.

Those abducted included four mayors, three state assemblymen, one city councilman, three local political party leaders, one reporter, four employees of rural government programmes and four ranchers and businessmen.

All of the kidnappings have been in northeast Colombia. The mayors are from the towns of California, Tibu, El Carmen and Hacienda.

Fauntroy running

WASHINGTON, March 4, (AP): Democrat Walter Fauntroy announced yesterday he will run for mayor of the nation's capital, saying he hoped to "beat the hurt" left by incumbent Marion Barry's indictment on drug and perjury charges.

Fauntroy, the city's non-voting delegate to Congress since 1971, said he reached his decision to seek the democratic nomination "after weeks of painful and tearful consideration."

US sanctions to remain in place

Congressmen praise De Klerk, offer 'pause'

CAPE TOWN, March 4, (UPI): A Congressmen's delegation that included key architects of American sanctions against South Africa offered to President Frederik de Klerk today a "pause" in their campaign for further sanctions and words of praise for his initial reform steps.

"We are very encouraged that a real process of change has begun which holds enormous possibilities for negotiating a peaceful transition to a genuine non-racial democracy," delegation leader William Gray, Democrat-Pennsylvania, told a news conference.

"We are deeply impressed that parties on both sides are taking risks and reaching out to one another, demonstrating with their courage a genuine desire to peace," he said.

"All of this represents a rare window of opportunity through which a new South Africa can emerge."

The nine-member delegation held talks Thursday with black leader Nelson Mandela and other leaders of the African National Congress before flying to South Africa for meetings with De Klerk, other government leaders and anti-apartheid officials.

The ANC leaders appealed to the congressmen to maintain existing sanctions against Pretoria. And while the legislators agreed, they also expressed concern over how to reward De Klerk for the reform steps taken so far.

The congressmen affirmed a two-prong strategy of maintaining sanctions against Pretoria under the comprehensive Anti-apartheid Act of 1986, while using diplomacy and public statements to encourage De Klerk to forge ahead with his proposals for power-sharing negotiations with the black majority.

Roo Dellums, the California Democrat who authored a tougher sanctions measure in 1988 that failed to pass the Senate, said that although present sanctions would remain in force, it was unlikely additional pressure would be approved pending further developments.

"As a result of this new dynamic I am prepared to pause for a moment to say, 'let's see if it will involve those persons who are appropriate to for the process to move forward to the kind of society we would all like to see.'

"We are not saying that apartheid is being dismantled," added New York Democrat Stephen Solarz, "but we see genuine commitment on both sides to span the racial divide and fashion a new South Africa and that gives us encouragement."

Approved over a presidential veto, the 1986 legislation imposed stinging sanctions against Pretoria, including a cut in air links between the two countries, sharp curbs on imports and exports and restrictions on lines of credit to South Africa.

"The conditions that gave rise to our desire to impose sanctions are still there — apartheid and repression are still there," said Dellums.

Mandela allays fears of whites

Mandela (left) and Mugabe are greeted by kneeling women on Mandela's arrival in Harare. (Reuter wirephoto)

HARARE, March 4, (Reuters): Nelson Mandela offered white South Africans a strong reassurance today that they had nothing to fear from an African National Congress (ANC) government.

The ANC would respect the many separate cultures of South Africa and would allow each community to run its own schools, Mandela said at a rally in the Zimbabwean capital.

"We are aware of their (white) fear ... that blacks are going to try and wreak vengeance upon them that liberation in South Africa will mean not only the end of white rule, but also the domination of whites by blacks."

"We deny this," Mandela told about 10,000 people who had waited up to six hours for his delayed arrival in Harare's National sports stadium.

It was his first speech on ANC policy since a two-day meeting of the movement's policy-making national executive committee (NEC) in Lusaka on Thursday and Friday.

He is expected to head an ANC delegation later this month in the first direct talks between the South African government and the guerrilla movement it reviled for 30 years.

Mandela, 71, was freed on February 11 after 27 years in South African prisons.

South African President F.W. De Klerk has also lifted a 30-year-old ban on the ANC and is urging black leaders including Mandela to negotiate with him on political rights for the country's five-to-one black majority.

Mandela travelled to Zambia on Tuesday, where the ANC's policy-making national executive elected him Deputy President under veteran leader Oliver Tambo, who is recovering in Sweden from a stroke and is unlikely to resume control of the organisation.

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe said Mandela's arrival at the rally was delayed because he had needed to rest after six hectic days at the ANC's exile headquarters in Lusaka and earlier public appearances in Harare today.

Noriega wife feels safe in Cuba

HAVANA, March 4, (Reuters): The wife of ousted Panamanian military强人General Manuel Noriega, who was allowed to leave Panama on Friday with her three daughters and an infant grandson, said yesterday she felt safe in Cuba.

Felecia Sieiro told Cuban television she felt "calm, safe and at home."

"I thank the Cuban people and President Fidel Castro for the welcome they have given me," she added.

Sieiro was met by Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Miguel Brugeras when she arrived in Havana on Friday night with her daughters Thais, Lorena and Sandra and a 6-month-old grandson. She did not outline her immediate plans.

But she and her daughters were expected to fly on to the Dominican Republic. The Dominican ambassador in Panama City said on Friday they had been granted political asylum in his country.

Hundreds of hecklers shouted "go away" beg-

gars," as the family, surrounded by Cuban diplomatic personnel, arrived at Panama City's airport Friday night.

Some hecklers threw pennies at the Noriegas and said: "This is to pay your husband's bail." The taunt was a reference to a comment by Noriega's wife, that she would travel around Panama asking for donations for her husband's defence.

On Wednesday, the Panamanian government said that it would allow safe passage out of the country for Mrs Noriega.

The members of Noriega's family were among a group of Panamanians who took refuge in the Cuban embassy in Panama City shortly after the US invasion last December 20.

They were granted safe passage out of Panama despite charges against them of illegal appropriation of state goods and of offences against state security brought by the US-backed government of Guillermo Endara.

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Iran team in Beirut for talks on hostages

LONDON, March 4. (Agencies): A London newspaper, quoting unnamed sources, reported on Sunday that a team of Iranian officials has arrived in Beirut on a mission to free one or more of the Western hostages held in Lebanon.

The Independent on Sunday said its information came from unnamed Lebanese and Iranian exiles in London and Paris.

"One exile who took part in previous hostage negotiations said he expected a release within days, but others said a final decision depended on the outcome of political fighting in Tehran," the paper said.

Iran's so-called pragmatists, led by Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, are at odds with hard-line, anti-Western radicals led by former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

The Independent on Sunday reported the Iranian team sent to Beirut was reportedly dispatched by Rafsanjani.

There are 18 Westerners missing in Lebanon. Most are believed held by pro-Iranian factions.

The story followed persistent reports in the Arab press and from Iranian and Lebanese sources of secret negotiations between Tehran and Washington over the hostage issue.

The newspaper said talks had been held in Muscat, Ankara and Geneva between Iranian officials led by Rafsanjani's brother Mahmoud and former US government officials, including former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

US President George Bush had denied any secret talks with Iran and ruled out trading for the hostages.

There are 17 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, among them three Britons and an Irishman.

The Independent on Sunday quoted British officials as saying they had no knowledge of talks going on, but they

acknowledged that an approach had been made some weeks ago offering to open negotiations for the release of Terry Waite, the Church of England envoy, and mentioning a ransom figure of \$20 million.

A senior Muslim militia official in Beirut told Reuters on Wednesday that the United States and Iran had held secret talks on the issue.

The militia official said senior Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and an American negotiator met in New York in December. A second round of talks took place in Geneva in January, he said.

The Iranian source said Tehran's team

in West Germany included negotiators previously involved in indirect contacts with Washington through Pakistan. They were trying last summer to defuse a potential crisis after a pro-Iranian group in Lebanon said it had executed US hostage William Higgins.

The Iranian source expressed optimism about contacts in West Germany, saying Tehran had dropped its previous insistence on linking freedom for the hostages with US concessions.

He said talks were continuing with Lebanese kidnappers holding 17 missing Westerners, eight of them Americans.

Shaky Beirut truce holds on

Vatican mediating

BEIRUT, March 4. (AP): A shaky ceasefire held in the Christian enclave today as the Vatican was reportedly mediating in the Christian show-down to discourage the Syrian Army from entering the conflict.

Government officials said the Vatican sent an emissary to convince renegade Gen. Michel Aoun and militia chieftain Samir Geagea to patch up their differences to avoid a Syrian military intervention to quell the fighting.

Syrian-backed President Elias Hirawi left for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, the first stop on a three-nation Arab tour. He will not visit Morocco because of King Hassan's previous engagements but will visit Algeria. The three are working under Arab League auspices on a peace plan for Lebanon.

Hirawi is seeking support for an unannounced plan to end the fighting which has killed 766 people and wounded 2,088 since it broke out Jan. 30. He has warned in the past that he will ask Syria to intervene.

"Provision of goods as in the past is in no way a service to the people and the country," he added. "Subsidies will go only for basic needs."

Rafsanjani added that "what will save the country is that consumer goods are produced inside the country, and are offered to the people at reasonable prices."

Rafsanjani said the country's reliance on imported goods must be cut.

He disclosed in January that factories were operating at 40 per cent of capacity.

Iranians are contending with soaring inflation, shortages of almost all basic commodities, and high unemployment — all consequences of the war with Iraq which devastated the country's economic infrastructure.

During the war, most hardships were blamed on the conflict. But since the August 1988 ceasefire, public demands have been rising.

There has been no mention of protest demonstrations on the state-run radio, television or Islamic Republic News Agency, all monitored in Nicosia.

Protests spur Iran to act on economy

Hotline to handle complaints



Rafsanjani

ment over continued economic hardships.

Rafsanjani blamed high prices on middle-men who took advantage of the government's foreign exchange shortfall to import goods and sell them at exorbitant prices.

He acknowledged that keeping the Iranian rial artificially inflated at 70 to the dollar was the root of the economic problem.

Imported goods, when converted into rials are prohibitively expensive and beyond the reach of most of Iran's 55 million population.

The government offers the

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Wiped out

CAIRO, March 4. (AP): The Sudanese armed forces command claimed in a statement yesterday its troops have wiped out four rebel battalions and two camps in south Sudan.

Turkey blames

ANKARA, March 4. (Reuters): Turkey says the refusal by Greek Cypriots to accept political equality for Turkish Cypriots was the main reason for the failure of top-level talks in New York on reuniting the divided island.

The semi-official agency said Kaled Ramadan, 31, was sentenced to four years and Adli Yousef, 28, to three years for supplying heroin and marijuanna to a Greek Cypriot and possessing narcotics.

The Syrian, Soufan Azzawi, 34, was sentenced to two years for possessing 10 grams (one-third of an ounce) of heroin.

3 women killed

ANKARA, March 4. (AP): Suspected Kurdish rebels shot and killed three women in a village near the Iraqi border yesterday the independent Hurriyet news agency reported.

The dispatch said village guards in Baglika, in Hakkari province, opened fire on the rebels, killing one and wounding another.

Most of the rebels in the region are members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), a Marxist group fighting to set up an independent Kurdish state in Turkey's southeastern province.

Since the clashes started in 1984, about 2,500 people have died. The casualties include rebels, government soldiers and civilians.

Drug charges

3 jailed

NICOSIA, March 4. (AP): Two Palestinians and a Syrian were jailed yesterday for possessing and supplying narcotics, the Cyprus news agency reported.

The semi-official agency said Kaled Ramadan, 31, was sentenced to four years and Adli Yousef, 28, to three years for supplying heroin and marijuanna to a Greek Cypriot and possessing narcotics.

The Syrian, Soufan Azzawi, 34, was sentenced to two years for possessing 10 grams (one-third of an ounce) of heroin.

Amnesty in talks

AMMAN, March 4. (Kuna): The visiting Amnesty International delegation held talks here today separately with chairman of the upper house Ahmad Al Louzi and Speaker of the lower house Suleiman Arrar of the Jordanian parliament on human rights.

Both Al Louzi and Arrar affirmed that human rights are endorsed in Jordan by the country's constitution.

They pointed in prevailing democratic atmosphere and effective participation of citizens.

The delegation's visit to the country came on the occasion of opening a centre for the international organisation in Amman.

Train collision

ANKARA, March 4. (Reuters): One railman was killed and 15 other people were injured today when two Turkish passenger trains collided at Polati 80 km (50 miles) west of Ankara, a railways official said.

The accident happened when the overnight train to Ankara from Izmir disregarded a red signal to enter the line on which the Ankara-Istanbul train was approaching, he told Reuters.

Railmen said the death toll was low because both trains were travelling slowly through the town.

Hussein in Iraq

BAGHDAD, March 4. (UPI): King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Baghdad yesterday and began talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on latest developments in the Middle East, Baghdad radio reported.

King Hussein's visit comes two days after the Jordanian monarch concluded a tour of the six-nation Gulf Co-operative Council (GCC), reportedly to muster support for convening an Arab summit to tackle the challenges facing the Arab nation, and in particular the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Pakistan minister

BAGHDAD, March 4. (Reuters): Pakistani Defence Minister of State Ghulam Sarwar Cheema arrived in Baghdad today for talks with his Iraqi counterpart General Abdul-Jabbar Shahanshah.

Cheema said his visit aimed to boost ties between the countries but gave no details, the official INA news agency reported.

Line up to vote

Afghan rebels queue up for voting at the Kunar provincial capital Asadabad to elect a provincial council in defiance of the Pakistani-based rebel government, which has planned its own elections by May next. A polling officer checks voters' names before handing them ballot papers. (Reuters wirephoto)

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2.	Abdul Hameed Yousuf	Indian	E691549
3.	Malik Mohd Aslam	Pakistani	D384565
4.	Abdul Gaffar Mohd Qasim	Indian	Y498753
5.	Mohd Aslam Noor	Pakistani	D475589
6.	Nalupurappillil Aboobacker	Indian	A923509
7.	Manoj Datt	Indian	W797373
8.	Mehdat Abbas	Egyptian	1041142
9.	Sutta Jarutaspemol	Thai	Q097774
10.	Mohammed Tahir Hory	Somali	221057

They are hereby requested to call at our Personnel Department for cancellation/transfer of their residence permits. The Company will cancel their residence permits after 2 weeks from the date of this advertisement and will not be responsible for any legal aspects related to them.

Libya, Sudan plan merger in 4 years

KHARTOUM, March 4. (Reuters): Sudan and Libya have agreed to sign integration pacts to pave the way for a merger in four years, realising Muammar Khaddafi's long-cherished dream of uniting with Africa's biggest country.

Sudanese military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir said last night the pacts would achieve political, economic and security integration between the two neighbours.

He told the Sudanese news agency Suna after returning from a two-day visit to Libya — his third visit there since June — the two countries would merge in four years.

He said the proposed pacts provided for a joint supreme council, a joint ministerial body and a joint permanent secretariat.

"The proposal will be effective after its approval by the legislative bodies in both countries," he said.

Libyan-style popular committees set up in Sudan last year would be upgraded to legislative bodies to which the pact would be submitted for approval, he added, but did not elaborate.

Bashir dissolved Parliament after seizing power in a coup in June last year.

He said Libyans would be allowed to visit Sudan without visas, a right so far granted only to Egyptians.

The Sudanese leader has repeatedly called for a merger between his country, Libya and Egypt.

He called yesterday during a rally in Tripoli for Arab unity from the Atlantic to the Gulf and said his junta would not rest until this was achieved.

Egypt has shown no interest in Bashir's unity calls. Last year it joined Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen in a regional grouping called the Arab Co-operation Council.

The Sudanese leader has repeatedly called for a merger between his country, Libya and Egypt.

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1,000 balloons to be released at Amiri Children to celebrate Rainbow Day

ON THE morning of Tuesday March 6 at 10 o'clock a thousand rainbow coloured balloons will be released by schoolchildren from the car park of the Amiri Hospital. They will be joining in the celebration of Rainbow Day — to mark the first anniversary of the foundation of the Kuwait Association for the

Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH). KACCH is a voluntary organisation which depends upon the generosity of institutions and private individuals and enjoys the support of the Ministry of Health and the medical profession. It is dedicated to improving the ways in which the health care community responds to

the unique emotional and developmental needs of children in hospital. There will be a KACCH information bureau in the foyer of the Amiri hospital from 8.30-11.30 am and 4-7 pm on Tuesday 6 March. In the lecture theatre, Jim Kuykendall, clinical psychologist of the Charing Cross School of Nursing Lon-

don, will be giving a demonstration workshop for those who are interested, on the importance of play within the hospital environment, during those hours.

For further information please contact the KACCH office, telephone 2464723.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri banquet

KUWAIT, March 4. (Kuna): HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah is to hold a dinner banquet this evening in Bayan Palace in honour of the Tanzanian President Ali Hassan Mwinyi and his accompanying delegation.

Mwinyi visited HH the Amir in his office at Bayan Palace this morning to hold official talks.

Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Khaled Al Ahmed Al Sabah said the talks focused on bilateral relations and means of developing them in all aspects as well as Afro-Arab relations and issues of joint concern.

The discussions proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding, he underlined.

Mwinyi also visited Kuwait Museum and Islamic Relics House.

Minister of Public Works, head of the mission of honour Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Al Houti accompanied President Mwinyi and his accompanying delegation.

Traffic exhibit

KUWAIT, March 4. (Kuna): Planning Minister and Acting Health Minister Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadhi inaugurated last night an exhibition for traffic statistics and photos at the safety Society for Prevention of Traffic Accidents.

The exhibition is organised on the occasion of the unified GCC Traffic Week, currently taking place in Kuwait and other GCC states, and included photos of road accidents and statistics.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the society's president Eng. Sabah Al Rayes, members and representatives of GCC traffic departments.

Morocco relations

KUWAIT, March 4. (Kuna): Moroccan Crown Prince Mohammed today hailed friendly relations linking Kuwait and his country which he said, "are based on mutual respect."

A local Arabic daily quoted Prince Mohammed as saying at the celebrations held yesterday for the 25th anniversary of King Hassan II accession to the throne that he is looking forward to visiting Kuwait in response to an invitation from His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al Salem Al Sabah.

He added that the visit, which had been postponed several times, will take place next fall and will discuss Arab and international issues in addition to topics that will further foster ties between the two brotherly countries.

Prince Mohammed praised the stances of His Highness the Crown Prince and added that Kuwait's policy is renowned for "supporting Arab issues and serving Muslims."

Education meeting

RIYADH, March 4. (Kuna): The 3rd meeting of the rectors of the universities and higher education institutes in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries starts here Tuesday at the general secretariat headquarters.

Higher education methods adopted by the supreme council in its sixth session, co-ordination between higher education and development needs, exchange of experts among universities and encouraging scholarships for higher studies in GCC universities will be discussed during the meeting, a secretariat release said.

It added that the meeting will also discuss awarding GCC students equal chances for admission at the higher education institutes, co-ordinating scientific research and publishing university books.

Delegations received

KUWAIT, March 4. (Kuna): Information Minister Sheikh Mubarak Al Hamad Al Sabah yesterday received Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Marco Colombo, a delegation of the Arab-Italian Friendship Society, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Italian Senate and other Italian government officials.

The two sides traded talk on Arab-Italian relations and the country's role in enhancing them and acquainting Italian public opinion on the nature of Arab causes spearheaded by the Arab-Israel conflict.



Roman-Arab society received

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohamed Al Ossaimi met Saturday with a delegation from the Italian-Arab Friendship Society headed by the president of the society Franco Malfani. The meeting discussed Arab-Italian relations in general and Kuwait-Italian relations in particular.

The meeting was attended by Undersecretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Suleiman Majed Al Shaheen and head of the European Department at the Foreign Ministry Faisal Al Mutawaa and a number of officials.

Expat students exhibit at KU

THE Expatriate Students Affairs Department at Kuwait University will hold the Annual Expatriate Students' Exhibition on the squash playgrounds in Shuwaikh under the sponsorship of the university rector, Dr Shuaib Abdullah Shuaib. The exhibition will be opened by the dean of students affairs at Kuwait University, Dr Abdullah Al Fahad at 9.30 am, Tuesday, March 20, 1990 and the exhibition will last for three days.

Director of the Expatriate Students Affairs Department at the university, Ali Al Faceli indicated that the department will also hold a football match between the university team and the expatriate students team on Monday, March

19.1990.

In an interview with a local daily, he pointed out that a large number of expatriate students showed keen interest to participate in the exhibition which is held annually. He indicated that the exhibition will include a large variety of popular foods and clothes in addition to posters from participant communities. In addition to these items, the exhibition will contain artistic and popular songs presented by participants, also cultural contests and symposiums. He said that the department welcomes the participation of all expatriate students at the university and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Kuwaitis in senior KPTC positions: official

THE chairman of the board and managing director of the Kuwait Public Transport Company Abdul Wahab Rashed Al Haroun has said that the company has been able to Kuwaitise all senior positions starting with the position of section head, in line with the general policy of the company.

He told a local daily that the total number of company staff was 5898 of whom 580 occupied administrative and supervisory positions. Of these, Kuwaitis constituted 24 per cent.

He said that the company is

endeavouring to attract as many Kuwaiti personnel as possible through offering incentive allowances, scholarships and providing ample training opportunities in and outside the country.

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Stricter control on foodstuff, water

PROCEDURES to develop and enhance the foodstuff charter of the municipality is about to be completed in relation to foodstuffs distribution and sale in the local markets, assistant director of foodstuffs department at Kuwait Municipality, Abdulla Al Shizzmar said.

He went on to explain that all imported foodstuffs are subject to strict inspection to ascertain that they are fit for human consumption. Further, he said that such inspection is also accorded to all mineral waters.

The municipality has seven centres to control and inspect imported foodstuffs at different ports and airports besides checking of foodstuffs arriving through land borders. Three of these centres were opened last year, and all centres are manned with efficient inspectors who work round the clock. The technical staff at these centres comprise, agricultural engineers, physicians and qualified inspectors.

The methodology of checking involves taking random samples from these imports and sending them to the lab for test on bacteria and radiation. However, for the last few years no instances of any foodstuffs being contaminated by radiation have been reported, the official said. He called on all co-operative societies not to purchase any imported foodstuff unless they ensure that the detailed report is sent with these imports by the municipality.

He disclosed that the municipality had destroyed about 650 tons of imported foodstuffs and turned back 1,000 tons of foodstuff that did not meet specifications.

CBK to continue diversification

THE chairman of the Commercial Bank, Hamad Al Hamad, has said that his bank continues in its policy to diversify and improve, the banking services and to train senior banking staff. The bank abides by policies of the Central Bank that aim at protecting the financial and banking system in the country, the official said.

He added that he is optimistic of the outcome of recommendations of the joint economic committee aimed at activating the

national economy. We are also optimistic of the stability of oil prices and the end of the Iraq-Iran war. He added that the report of the joint economic committee is the most important local economic event in 1989.

The committee aimed at activating the national economy and to develop the efficiency of programmes to settle the banking debts that are less than 250,000. This programme serves the national economy beside the parties. Hamad added that auth-

orities should study the question of merging some banks together carefully before taking a decision.

Financial and banking establish-

ments should be developed to

serve the national economy and

to be able to compete with regional and international establish-

ments.

He added that his bank is

working hard to attract the

national cadres to join its staff

and also offer the required train-

Building of border centres to begin soon

By Hussein Salameh

SEYASSAH has reported that the construction of the border centres project will soon be executed and is expected to be operational in 1991. Sources said that the project will include the construction of modern border facilities in Abdali, Salmy and Nuwaiseh which will support anti-smuggling activities.

The Minister of Finance Jassem Kharafi meanwhile, headed a meeting of the committee in charge of following up the construction of this project during which discussions focused on the design prepared for Abdali centre.

It is noteworthy that the Kuwait Stores and Refrigeration Companies had been assigned to manage construction due to their long-experience in the field, particularly since the project would also include the provision of cabinets to keep frozen merchandise coming to Kuwait before transfer to the importer in Kuwait in line with the regulation in force.

Replies to a question on the

status of the driving school,

Aidan said that construction will

be ready in September of this

year. He disclosed that the

issuance of learners' licences to

the general public will be up to

the discretion of the traffic

authorities.

He added that the project, based

on the design prepared for Abdali

centre, will be completed in

September of this year.

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4.2pc increase in national population

Less Kuwaitis in private sector

KUWAIT'S population growth rate among Kuwaiti citizens is estimated at an average of 4 per cent per annum and the increase among expatriates is about 5.8 per cent according to statistical reports issued.

The average dropped in 1987/1988 to 2.9 per cent and then realised a significant increase in 1989, estimated at 4.2 per cent.

The report commented that the increase among expatriates is based on two elements: the expatriate local birth rate

and the incoming immigration. The former constitutes 93.1 per cent of the total increase among expatriates and about 53.2 per cent of the country's total population increase.

The report said that the immigration influx had witnessed a decrease during the year 1985, 1986 and 1987 and then soared by 1988/1989 in view of the increase in residence permits being granted to the private sector which amounted to about

28,000, in addition to the increase in the number of housemaids which amounted to about 20.7 per cent compared to 17.1 per cent during 1984/1985.

Further the report said that there is a housemaid for every five to six persons in Kuwaiti families and about one servant for every 33 persons among expatriate families.

Meanwhile, the report disclosed that family visas had drastically dropped during the year 1988/1989 to 466 family visas only compared to 4,644 in 1985/1986.

The report clarified that the national workforce had increased during last year at 13.6 per cent and most of them were employed in the government sector which constitutes about 92 per cent of the national workforce. The Kuwaiti percentage in the private sector constitutes 7.3 per cent last year compared to about 8.4 per cent in 1985.

Legal Clinic

SHOULD you have a legal, labour-related or similar problem, kindly send your questions to: Arab Times Legal Clinic. Our Kuwaiti lawyer, Khaled Taher, replies to readers' queries.

Write to Legal Clinic, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions on Fax No. 4347495.

I've been working for an import/export company, managed by an Arab partner, since 1974. In 1975, my domestic visa was changed to work visa No. 18. I did not sign any contract with the company. My Ministry of Social Affairs papers show my salary as KD240 per month. Since January 1985, I have been receiving KD125 per month. From Jan. 1988, I am being paid KD150. The last salary was paid in October. I have not received three months salary—November, December and January. Can I claim the difference in salary?

Since I joined the company, the partner issued several cheques in my name to cash them for him. Will this effect my service benefits? Can this be shown as a proof that he has paid my full salary and service?

The Arab partner has been managing the company. The Kuwaiti partner does not take an interest in our affairs; he signs residence renewal forms only.

If I complain to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, or go to court, who will pay my service benefits? Will I get my end of service benefits and unpaid salary? The Arab partner is not allowing me to find another job.

P. D'Souza

THIS depends. If it is a company, the case must be filed against the company. If it is a firm, with a Kuwaiti partner, then the case is filed against both partners, and you must specify that the Arab partner is the manager of the company. Your case must first be referred to Social Affairs and then, if they can't finalise the matter, it will be referred to court, which will decide responsibility.

You are entitled to all the benefits, because the company broke the contract by not paying your salary for three months; you can also claim the difference between the salaries that was paid and that was agreed to be paid.

You can also file a case to get the release from the Kuwaiti partner.

With regards to encashing cheques from the bank, if you have any witnesses to prove that the cash was given to the partner, and if you can prove, through witnesses, that most cheques were cashed by you were for the Arab manager, then the court will take into consideration in case of a dispute.

PLEASE allow me to congratulate you on your noble efforts in helping the needy through your column.

I had an accident at work in November, 1989. My left leg bones were broken. The accident report was made by our company's safety department and a police investigation was conducted. After 15 days in hospitals, I was given a month's rest. I applied for leave and went home, where I had my injury fixed through a successful operation. My doctor

here was satisfied with the outcome. I'm still on sick leave recommended by the doctor in Kuwait.

Do I have the right to claim compensation? What are the papers I need?

V.S

YOU can get the final medical report giving the percentage of disability suffered due to the accident; according to the report you can file a case to get the percentage of disability compensation awarded by the court. And if you want to claim a higher compensation, you can make the claim. It is advisable to appoint a lawyer, who can guide you on how to go about making the claim. The matter must be dealt with through a court of law.

ONE of my friends was working here since 1979 in a book shop. Last year, the owner sold the shop and the new owner reduced his salary by 50 per cent. He worked for a few months and then left the job without the owner's permission and found employment elsewhere. A month later, he has charged with stealing money from the first employer and deported. In fact, the theft charge was not true. He wants to return to Kuwait.

Kindly tell me (1) Kind of deportees restricted from re-entering on the basis of reason for deportation; (2) Can he re-enter Kuwait at any time or must he stay out of Kuwait for a certain period; (3) What is the procedure to get a pardon.

A.S.P.

A LARGE number of people hurt themselves, working against the law by turning it against themselves. Consequently, they lose their rights due to their own fault by changing the nature of their action into a crime.

At the time when your friend's salary was reduced, he could have approached the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and sought redress. As he had been working from 1979, he could have asked for a release from the new owner, which he could have got. By leaving the employer without permission, he broke the law and, thus, gave the employer a chance to take action against him.

The employer, in such instances, can adopt the legal way and have the employee deported for absconding from duty.

The question here is not on what charges he was deported but the fact that he has been sent out and now he cannot re-enter, and because he was charged with theft.

The only redress in such cases is to ask for a pardon.

There are two types of deportation: a written order from the Ministry of Interior or court judgement. In both cases, the person cannot enter Kuwait unless a pardon is granted by the Minister of Interior.

The law does not mention any restriction on the period of stay outside Kuwait.

The deportee must write to the Minister of Interior, asking for a pardon by explaining the circumstances of deportation and expressing his desire to re-enter Kuwait.

THANK you for your help (Dec 18, Legal Column). I have another problem yet to be solved.

On Feb 4, 1990, I submitted to the company's manager requesting the difference in salary as stated in my contract. He reacted abusively, saying the contract signed through my embassy was a mere formality for emigration purposes. He said the recruiting agent has given in writing that I'll work for KD60. All this was done without my knowledge. Later, my company supervisors forced me to sign a memo saying that I "agree to work in the same position and accept a salary of KD60." This memo was countersigned by other company officials. Now, I don't know what to do. Please help me.

X.C.

I CAN'T help you when you have already spoiled your case. You should have sought my advice before signing the memo. At that time, I could have offered some help. Now, after you have finalised everything you come to seek advice. There is nothing I can tell you now accept that if you have witnesses to prove that you were made to sign the papers under duress, and that you would not have otherwise, you can file a case against the company and claim your rights.

MY relative is on two months leave. Due to some family problems he is unable to resume work and wishes to send in his resignation. He has over six years service with the company. He has asked me to approach his company with the resignation, in which he has requested me to settle his indemnity. Is he entitled to get indemnity in full? Should his resignation letter reach the company before the expiry of his leave? How should I proceed with his request to the company?

Chandra Mohan

THE resignation letter must be handed in with the notice period—15 days (private sector labour law) or according to terms of contract—before the expiry of the leave period.

The notice of resignation must be given in accordance with the labour law or the contract. You did not mention the duration of contract, if there is terms regarding the rights of an employee for breaking the contract.

As he is resigning, he is entitled to get half of his indemnity; and as he has over six years service, he is entitled to get 7.5 days salary for the first five years and one month for the subsequent years.

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He stated that the session would focus on inter-Arab Social policies, noting that the issue was a great significance due to the considerable decline in the Arab world's social plans during the past decade.

He warned the Arab countries were facing major social problems which endangered social safety and mentioned in particular the growing rate of unemployment, illiteracy and lack of care for disabled persons.

"Those pressing questions require collective efforts rather than unilateral endeavours to overcome our shortcoming," Sheikh Nasser urged, adding he would acquaint the conferees on Kuwait's achievements in social fields and the distinguished standard of social welfare the state was offering to its citizens and residents.

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Meanwhile, the report disclosed that family visas had drastically dropped during

Kuwaitis don't save for the future: report

Asian savings high

ECONOMICS, basically is the life-line of all societies in the world and economics coupled with sound judgement of the "savings-habit" is of paramount importance to all individuals.

On this scene, economical openness experienced in all sectors is attributed to be one of the main factors which had led to a lowering of savings of both Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis. What is noteworthy in this context is that the economical recession experienced during recent years, has prompted many to reconsider their saving habits to cater to future emergencies. Specifically, among Kuwaitis, the recent recession has heightened the need to appreciate the value of money, and to revert to traditional thrifty habits.

Despite the fact that a large section of Kuwaitis have become aware of what other nationalities have long understood, many agree that the psychological stability available for Kuwaitis and economical openness is mainly the reason that Kuwaitis are not encouraged to take a more balanced view towards saving for the future.

The Cabinet meeting, chaired by His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, was briefed by Awadi, who is also Planning Minister, on the outcome and recommendations of the 28th Conference of Arab Gulf Health Ministers, held in Riyadh last week, according to the government spokesman.

The spokesman, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdil Aziz Al Rashed added that the government discussed and approved a draft law on re-organisation of the judiciary.

The draft was to be referred to the Amiri Diwan for ratification.

The ministers also approved recommendations suggesting that real-estate loans of families of deceased debtors be forgiven, he said.

The council of ministers reviewed a minute of a recent meeting for the municipal affairs committee and decided to endorse resolutions adopted by the committee.

The survey said that the definition of savings is different from one nationality to another in Kuwait. For example, it said that savings for Palestinians living in Kuwait is of paramount importance, particularly for those who live in the continued fear of losing their homelands. These Palestinians, and all Palestinians in general, bearing in mind the hardships they all face for the benefit of their children's future save heavily. However, most Palestinians do not deprive themselves of daily needs, but rather achieve a balance between spending and saving.

Kuwaitis, government retirement plans which induces Kuwaitis to take a complacent attitude towards their future and those of the future generations. Further, the survey said that Kuwaitis tend to project an "outer image" of affluence to society and tend to "splash" on luxuries. Some Kuwaitis, the report said go to the extent of obtaining loans to keep up an "unrealistic" lifestyle.

Examples of Kuwaitis driving luxurious vehicles containing all modern amenities such as telephones, and not having KDI in their pockets have been reported. The survey said that still, other Kuwaitis have got accustomed to living in luxurious surroundings and thus cannot come to terms with the need to save.

Some of the survey samples stressed that to begin in the right direction towards rationalisation and savings, Kuwaitis must at the outset cut down on the size of daily waste and uncalled for spending.

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Luxury

Lebanese, on the other hand are considered to be a living example of those who live for the moment only—even though they do understand that this life-style discourages them from saving—particularly since the government exerts all efforts to implement the strongest retirement plan in the world.



Nasser in Cairo to attend Arab labour meet

KUWAIT, March 4, (Kuna): Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed left here today for Cairo heading Kuwait's delegation to the 18th session of Arab Labour ministers due to start in the Egyptian capital on Tuesday.

He told reporters before his departure that the meeting is convening at a critical time, referring to international changes and challenges that characterised the advent of the present decade, saying they would certainly have their impact on the Arab nation.

Foremost of those challenges was the Soviet Jews exodus into occupied Palestine under human rights pretext," Sheikh Nasser said.

He stated that the session would focus on inter-Arab Social policies, noting that the issue was a great significance due to the considerable decline in the Arab world's social plans during the past decade.

He warned the Arab countries were facing major social problems which endangered social safety and mentioned in particular the growing rate of unemployment, illiteracy and lack of care for disabled persons.

"Those pressing questions require collective efforts rather than unilateral endeavours to overcome our shortcoming," Sheikh Nasser urged, adding he would acquaint the conferees on Kuwait's achievements in social fields and the distinguished standard of social welfare the state was offering to its citizens and residents.

On the establishment of perennial range grasses in the Gulf, Jerry Cox of USAD-Agricultural Research Service, Tucson, Arizona, USA, said that perennial grass establishment on Gulf rangelands would stabilise surface soils and provide forage for

domestic livestock. Currently however, plant establishment is unlikely because rainfall is variable. Commenting on the purpose of the paper, Cox said that it is intended to compare the amount and distribution of Arabian rainfall with other northern and Southern Hemisphere deserts and identify perennial grasses that have potential in the Gulf.

Testing the performance of various Alfalfa cultivars under Kuwait's environment was presented by F. Taha and M. Abdal on behalf of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

Abdal said that the objective of the study was to select the best varieties of Alfalfa for fodder production in Kuwait, where temperatures range from 0-50°C annually.

He added that fifteen Alfalfa cultivars were selected for evaluation for two consecutive years. The trials were done at

the Sulaibiya experimental station where soil is alkaline, sandy in texture (89 per cent sand) and low inorganic matter (approximately 1 per cent). The soil pH ranges from 7.5-9.0 and its electrical conductivity (EC) is 4.5 ms/cm with a very high CEC. The irrigation water is brackish with an EC of 5.4 ms/cm.

From Sudan, Mohamed Khair of Gezira Research Station spoke about persistence, yield and regrowth of Lubia (Labia Purpurea) under different defoliation intensities.

He said that complete defoliation was determined on the persistence yield and regrowth after defoliation. It is concluded that to favour rapid growth and to achieve high total dry matter yield and to ensure the distribution of the total yield more or less equally over growing season, Lubia should be cut at least above four compound leaves that is 26.0 cm.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES
Thought for today

A USELESS life is an early death — Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German author.

Punishment for defiance

Army sealing off houses

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank. (AP): Palestinian matriarch Fatima Sufarin, 60, wept quietly on Thursday as she picked through the rubble of what had been her home for the past 41 years.

"I don't know what I'm going to do now," said Mrs Sufarin, a Palestinian refugee who was displaced for the second time in her life when soldiers blew up her two-storey house on Wednesday.

The six-room house was demolished to punish the family for the alleged crimes of Mrs Sufarin's son Imad, 25, who is accused of throwing a firebomb that wounded an Israeli soldier. Family members say Imad, who is awaiting trial, is innocent.

Houses

According to the army, more than 450 houses have been destroyed or sealed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in December 1987.

On Thursday, troops sealed three houses in the village of Tamoun in the northern West Bank, the army said. Palestinian reporters said the sealings made 16 people homeless.

The houses belonged to the families of three Palestinian men who allegedly carried out acts of sabotage in nearby Jewish settlements and threw firebombs at homes of several Tamoun residents suspected of co-operating with Israeli authorities.

The United States and other Western nations have sharply criticised house demolitions and sealings, saying the practice was a form of collective punishment and violated the right to due process before the law. In nearly all cases, houses are destroyed or sealed before a suspect has been tried.

Israeli military officials say the practice is an effective deterrent of violence, and that it is legal under emergency regulations dating to the pre-state British mandate period.

The demolition of Mrs Sufarin's house left 12 people homeless, including herself, her daughters Jamile and Wedad and their teen-age children.

Family

Wedad, 42, suffers from schizophrenia and has been kept in a locked room for the past 15 years because family members said otherwise she might harm herself and others.

Wedad on Wednesday found refugee in the Bethlehem Mental Hospital, which earlier had refused to take her because of her violent outbursts. But hospital officials said Thursday that she would have to leave soon because she was too much of a burden.

On Thursday, Mrs Sufarin's family gathered around the rubble of the house, located at the foot of the Judean hills and near the site where the Bible says Jesus was tempted by the devil.

Mrs Sufarin, her white headscarf soaked by driving rain, was crying as she peered at chickens huddled under the rubble and picked through the ruins to look for anything salvagable.

The Sufarins spent the night in a nearby small shack into which they had piled all their possessions, including blankets, carpets, wicker chairs, a grandfather clock and a refrigerator.

Lithuania leads way to secession

VILNIUS, USSR. (UPI): More than any other individual factor, Lithuania's relentless drive toward independence may have laid the foundation for the ultimate collapse of the Soviet Union.

But its peaceful revolution and adherence to law, the Soviet republic of 3.8 million people, including 400,000 Poles and a like number of Russians, they have sparked a series of violent clashes.

It was the dramatic rise of the Sajudis nationalist and secessionist movement in 1988 that prompted the Lithuanian Communist Party to break with Moscow in December and declare its independence.

That move set the stage for other republics — chiefly Latvia and Estonia, which with Lithuania were incorporated forcefully into the Soviet Union in 1940 — to seek to alter their links with Moscow.

The nationalistic turmoil extends from the Ukraine, a republic as big as France, to the Soviet republic of Belarusia, where there are stirrings of independence with the emergence of the front of rebirth.

For seven decades, the Soviet Communist Party has been the glue that kept the vast country together. A split in the party could mean a split in the country tomorrow.

Small wonder Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev felt strongly enough about the Lithuanian break

Battle for independence
Kashmiris ready to give life

SRINAGAR, (AP): The appeal came from loudspeakers strung across mosques and by word of mouth: "100,000 people have taken shelter in mosques. They are hungry. We need food."

Within minutes, Muslim housewives collected their pots and pans. Within an hour, huge dinners of rice and vegetable curry were ready.

The food was passed from hand to hand across narrow alleys and from rooftop to rooftop to avoid Indian patrols, until it reached the mosques that dot this city of nearly 1 million people.

"The appeal was for food, and it came. If the appeal goes for giving one's life, that will come too," said Mohammad Ramzan, a 74-year-old retired government employee.

Independence

Muslims in the Kashmir valley seem ready for a full-scale battle for independence. The appeal for food came Thursday, the day government troops shot and killed at least 60 people during marches by about a million Muslims demanding secession from Hindu-dominated India.

It was the largest demonstration for secession ever in the Kashmir valley, a Muslim-dominated region where residents have chafed under Indian rule for four decades.

"Thursday was the watershed in the Indian government's efforts to keep the area under Indian control," said a local Muslim policeman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Look at this," he said, pointing at his police uniform. "Inside this uniform there is a Kashmiri first and a policeman later. I am no more an Indian, and I will never pick up arms against my brother Kashmiris."

Urged on by militants, Muslims are starting to reject everything that is Indian.

Billboards with the word "India" have been vandalised. Indian banks report dwindling business. Many residents have set back their watches half an hour to correspond with the time in neighbouring Pakistan, an Islamic republic.

Many people have stopped wearing wristwatches, fearful of offending either the militants or the government.

"Why take undue risk? I just don't wear a wristwatch anymore," a hotel doorman said.

Directive

In the last few days a new directive went out to shopkeepers: do not accept Indian currency. Instead, use the Pakistani currency that Indian sources say the militants are smuggling into Kashmir.

"Yes, we have heard about the directive not to accept Indian currency, but I don't think it has been put into practice," said an employee at one of Srinagar's top hotels.

"Indian currency is still legal tender, but if the campaign goes on the way it is going now, the day is not far off when we may have to refuse Indian money," he said, asking that neither he nor his hotel be identified.

Under orders from the main Islamic militant group, the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, Srinagar's liquor shops closed or switched to selling



ONE MAN, TWENTY EIGHT MILLION VOTES.

other merchandise. Cinemas also have closed, and one theatre owner said he was thinking of converting his building to a cold storage depot for potatoes.

The refrain of independence reverberates throughout the city.

"Before, we — the Kashmiris — used to think that independence was not possible. But now we think it is not only possible, but it is only a matter of time," said a Muslim high school teacher.

Romania

"It is sort of Romania in the making," he added, comparing the Kashmiri independence movement to

Army morale at lowest ebb

EAST BERLIN, (AP): East Germany's army has suffered a loss of morale, readiness and sizeable number of troops since the borders were opened and the face of the West changed from enemy to friend.

Even Defence Minister Theodor Hoffmann has conceded that reform has inflicted "many difficulties" on the East German Army, a frontline force of the Warsaw Pact.

"We are practically without subordinates," a senior army officer told the Associated Press. "The officers themselves have to walk patrols and service tanks."

Desertions

The officer, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said the army has been hit hard by the desertions of thousands of soldiers through the open borders with the West.

Col Gerd Aperz of the Defence Ministry information office told the AP that reports of the East German Army's diminished readiness have been exaggerated in the West. But he confirmed that the wave of migrations to West Germany has taken its toll on the armed forces since the hardline communist government was ousted last fall.

He said well over 10 per cent of National People's Army troops are deployed in factories, municipal maintenance crews and in other public works to keep crucial industries and services operating, following the departure of thousands of workers.

More than 40,000 soldiers have left army service since Jan 26, when military reforms were announced to reduce the 200,000 troops to 110,000 by the end of the year, Aperz said.

Other Defence Ministry sources said only about half of the departures were due to the reduction in forces.

Increasing number of soldiers have been deserting to seek their fortunes in the West, or failing to report back from furloughs amid a noticeable decline in discipline and readiness, the sources said.

Capt Ola Marks told the AP that nearly half of the 2,000 soldiers stationed at his 23rd Rifle Regiment based in Bad Salzungen had left in recent weeks.

They joined more than 400,000 East Germans who have resettled in West Germany since last summer, having abandoned hope that living standards would improve quickly, along with political changes.

East Germany's rapid changes are being blamed for much of the decline in what was once rated among the strongest fighting forces in Eastern Europe.

But Indian officials contend that fear, rather than a genuine desire to secede, has driven most of the people taking part in demonstrations.

"These are stage-managed for the press," said Jagmohan, the federally appointed governor of Jammu-Kashmir, where escalating violence by separatist groups led to a government crackdown on Jan 20. More than 160 people have died since then and most have been Muslim protesters shot by government troops.

Relations

Improved relations between the two Germanys, and reduced tensions between Nato and the Warsaw Pact, have greatly reduced East German perceptions of a military threat from the West.

One young officer told the AP that many East German soldiers can no longer conceive of circumstances that would prompt them to take up arms against West Germany.

Relations

Hoffmann, addressing a session this week of talks among various political factions in East Berlin, said the army should not become involved in parliamentary elections.

We might sound a bit optimistic, but to have hope where there is still a chance to make it is better than leaving and criticising our political parties and institutions, only exerted efforts and collective participation in union can solve myriad of problems faced by our government.

It would be advisable for the Islamabad administration to de-emphasise their rhetorical excesses and espouse a management-oriented approach to the Pakistani problematics; it has been time and again proven that the masses in Pakistan have turned antagonistic to every government and political personality in due course of time because the people's issues and elects were not resolved.

Indeed the people's faith in the elected government is the only hope they have now; another disappointment and shaking of this faith would have disastrous consequences for Pakistan. Let the people and time decide who would ascend to the timeless eminence in the history of Pakistan and when!

Dr Haider Mehdi,
Kuwait University,
Shawalib campus.

the forthcoming months. It has been suggested to name it the Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Cup (on the same lines as the Nehru Cup in India). Wouldn't it be more appropriate not to emulate India and perhaps change the rules of the political game? Wouldn't it suffice to call the matches the Pakistan Cup? Wouldn't it be more reasonable to spend large sums of money on resolving the people's basic everyday needs than to celebrate almost on a regular basis something about the founder of the Pakistan Peoples Party? Towing the party's line is one thing, but diverting major national financial resources and administration's human resources to image-building campaign is quite another matter. Restoring the late premier's place in history is not the responsibility of the elected government; it is the job of the PPP, and the party must separate this undertaking from the routine management of the government.

In Pakistan, president Ayub Khan made the first deliberate attempt in creating a personality cult for himself. It was a sophisticated try, supported and planned by American image-builders. Ayub Khan, who promoted himself to the rank of Field Marshal (the first and the only in Pakistan army), authored the book *Friends Not Masters*, took advantage of Pakistan's limited military success in Kashmir in 1965, embarked upon the so-called "economic miracle" in Pakistan, and benefiting from his towering, looming, handsome personality, he attempted a full-fledged propaganda campaign to make himself appear larger than life. It started with the "Decade of Development" celebrations. Soon, however, the whole thing collapsed; everything fell flat-faced. The masses did not want the grandeur of Ayub's personality; it insulted their sensibilities because the issues that were confronting the people remained unsolved.

Personality

The Pakistan People's Party of late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto pursued the masses' issue while elevating the towering personality of their elected leader with combined zealousness. But those were very peculiar and problematic times. Though Bhutto was removed from power, his legacy remained; particularly, Bhutto's execution turned him into a political legend.

All are signs that Lithuania is already acting like a free country.

"Only the Lithuanian KGB, still under the Soviet control, has to be reformed," said Lithuania's Radzevicius, a secretary of the breakaway Lithuania Communist Party.

Breakthrough

The breakthrough event was the parliamentary election Feb 25, in which the Sajudis landslide victory gave its members a majority in Parliament, which is expected to vote for secession.

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"Only the Lithuanian KGB, still under the Soviet control, has to be reformed," said Lithuania's Radzevicius, a secretary of the breakaway Lithuania Communist Party.

The suggestion made is that should APPROB not concentrate on commercial and business projects instead of involving into philanthropic and academic activities?

For the general information of the public, we would like to be upfront and clear about it that our view is that Pakistan's national integration and cultural heritage is to be protected by continued efforts and seasoning of the nation's ideology.

APPROB's effort is aimed at re-invigorating and rekindling the spirit of a nation which resulted in the historical Pakistan Resolution in 1940 where the entire Muslims of the Indo-subcontinent agreed to unite under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam to struggle for a new homeland.

We at APPROB feel that Pakistanis abroad owe a great deal of gratitude to their motherland and, at present time, when the nation is experiencing testing moments on external and internal fronts, it is required of us that Pakistani nationalism be promoted above all other parochial slogans.

This, we feel, is the only way that our emergence as a strong democratic and developing nation among the community of nations can be assured and guaranteed.

APPROB believes in a broad-based unified effort with aim and purpose of "unity, diversity," where diverse political views can be subordinated and accommodated with a common view that all Pakistanis share, that the building of a better and stronger Pakistan with democracy as its way of life.

In light of the above, we believe this occasion is a chance for us to translate our efforts into reality by organizing a massive rally and a march, bridging the aspirations of people through their feelings. No amount of image-building can solve the problems and issues that need to be dealt with prudently and in the spirit of democratic pluralism. In the end, people will ask the question: What have you done to resolve our problems? Who are the resolutions? No amount of image-building can provide answers to these fundamental questions.

It is about time for the Pakistani leadership to fully comprehend the nature of the problematics at the heart of the restless Pakistani polity and its endless vibrations of discontent and concern. Bridging the aspirations of people through their feelings.

APPROB is achieving multi-fold purposes in propagating the cause of Pakistani nationalism. First of all, it promotes a sense of belonging among the nationals and, secondly, in the background of adverse publicity which Pakistan gets due to biased reporting where the only time we see Pakistan in the news is when it is stuck with tragedy, we are trying to create positive

media effect with the purpose that Pakistan and Pakistanis should be recognised as members of a developing nation that has to be reckoned with.

The last 43 years of Pakistan independence have been, with all its shortcomings, a great leap forward for the new nation. The phenomena of amalgamation amongst various cultures, views, and sects takes historically, a certain period of time.

We, as a nation, are quite determined, and there is no doubt that the slogan of national integration is gaining momentum day by day where people are discarding prejudice.

We might sound a bit optimistic, but to have hope where there is still a chance to make it is better than leaving and criticising our political parties and institutions, only exerted efforts and collective participation in union can solve myriad of problems faced by our nation.

APPROB's aim is identification of issues and development of pluralism, values, support of continuation of the democratic institution and process at all levels along with it we call for strengthening of judicial establishment so as to enable our masses receiving swift justice because justice is justice.

APPROB believes that all the above can only be achieved through massive campaign of education and eradication of social ill.

We expect that expatriate Pakistani professionals and businessmen in Kuwait will join hands with us in our effort to build a stronger and better Pakistan. Tolerance and accommodation of opposing views would yield constructive dialogue and will take us out of the present situation of despair.

APPROB Executive Board,
Salmiya

Indian School

SIR: We, the parents of some of the children studying in the Indian School, Salmiya, are deeply shocked and dismayed to hear that there is a proposal to shift the Senior Section (Class IX to XII) of the school from Salmiya to Mangal.

The senior school has been in existence in Salmiya since 1972 and has been the model for the developments of the area as well as for the educational, cultural, and sports activities of our children. Hundreds of Indian families have settled down around this area, most of them with both parents working, because their children can have convenient facilities up to higher secondary stage. It is at this level of secondary education that our children have to devote maximum time and effort for preparing themselves for the extremely competitive field of higher education.

Shifting of the school will be disastrous for them: almost two hours each day will have to be wasted in commuting. Also, no one can dispute the fact that the present location for the Higher Secondary Section is central and most convenient for children coming from different areas.

The availability of motorways which will reduce the transportation time could be pointed out as a justification for the shifting. But this is hardly so, because during the peak traffic hours entrance and exit from the residential areas take almost half an hour each. Adding to this will be the waiting time and the transit time. Transportation charges will also be an additional burden on many families.

Movie stars sample doctor's 'secret magic' to stay young



Timeless: Morgan Fairchild — regular customer



Stunning Deborah Shelton won her starring role — with a little help from Gerry.



Goldie Hawn's golden looks were preserved by Gerry's workouts.

Gerry's message keeps wrinkles at bay

IT'S the ultimate Hollywood work-out ... a visit to the discreet office of the "face doctor to the stars".

Using a secret massage technique, Dr Gerald Schneider's magic fingers smooth away those cruel old wrinkles from more famous faces than he cares to mention.

In his tastefully decorated waiting room, where music tinkles soothingly, the wall is adorned with inscribed photographs from patients whose faces are their Hollywood fortunes.

Goldie Hawn enthuses: "Gerry — thanks for all your goodness". And Brix Eckland agrees: "Gerry, Magic wands, sorry — hands — from one happy client".

And there is also a signed picture of stunning Deborah Shelton, whom the good doctor modestly admits to once helping land a plum part in the top soap Dallas.

He explained: "I saw her prior to her getting the part. She was due to do the audition. I think it's true to say that I might have had something to do with her success. Deborah still comes in for maintenance."

But Gerry, who calls his work-out "face contouring", still sees a lot of his biggest fan ... Morgan Fairchild. He said: "She started coming to me when she was 25, and she is a little older now."

Shetwell's marvellous hands don't have a line on her face. She comes here once or twice a week to maintain her gorgeousness. After all, like all performers, her livelihood depends on how she looks."

When Morgan puts her face into Gerry's masterful hands, he sets to work with a technique that has been described as "like playing a harp with a regular beat".

On a recent visit, Morgan reported: "I've seen quite a few people to Gerry. I don't want to be mean, but I have a friend whose face was really sagging. It looked awful ... she was like a basket bound".

Morgan, who had turned up for her treatment wearing a peach-coloured jumpsuit, went on: "I brought her to Gerry and, after a few weeks, I saw a major difference. And then we got her married off".

And the star has even included her face doctor in her beauty book, Morgan Fairchild's Superlooks. She writes: "An alternative to surgery is a technique called facial contouring".

Gerald Schneider, of Los Angeles, is the only professional I know who currently performs this method. He works with muscles of the neck and face, to tone them and counter the effects of the natural aging process".

Key

And that is the magic key to Hollywood success. Anyone who can stop the hands of time — or even slow them down — becomes as rich and famous as any of his star patients.

Dr Schneider, taking his air-conditioned ease, was obviously in no financial pain at all as he told me how he had stumbled upon his medical crock of gold by accident.

He explained: "as a chiropractor — a natural manipulator — I have always had a theatrical practice. In 1959 I was in New York, treating dancers and actors from the Broadway stage.

Then one of the featured players in a show went down with Bell's Palsy. The paralyses one half of the face. I had already treated this girl for other things, and she called me up to ask if I could help.

Using chiropractic techniques, it took me about three weeks to help this girl regain the use of the muscles in the affected side of her face. But,



Dr Gerry Schneider in his surgery with pictures of some Hollywood stars he has helped to face the future.

Do-it-yourself guide

Although you can't achieve the same results as Dr Schneider's magic fingers, here is the daily do-it-yourself guide he gives to his movie star patients for when they are out of town.

• Take the index and middle fingers of each hand and hold them firmly together, the middle overlapping the index.

Start rotating them outwards, like a waterwheel. Bring them up to massage the underside of your chin. This stimulates and increases circulation. Work up the side of the chin and then the side of the face.

• I call this exercise for the chin line "being belligerent." Simply jut the chin forward, as though you are angry. This exercises the big, broad muscle underneath the chin.

• Do you need to work on the "labial lines" — the ones that run from nose to mouth? It is another simple exercise for the face muscles ... simply keep puffing up your cheeks and blowing out.

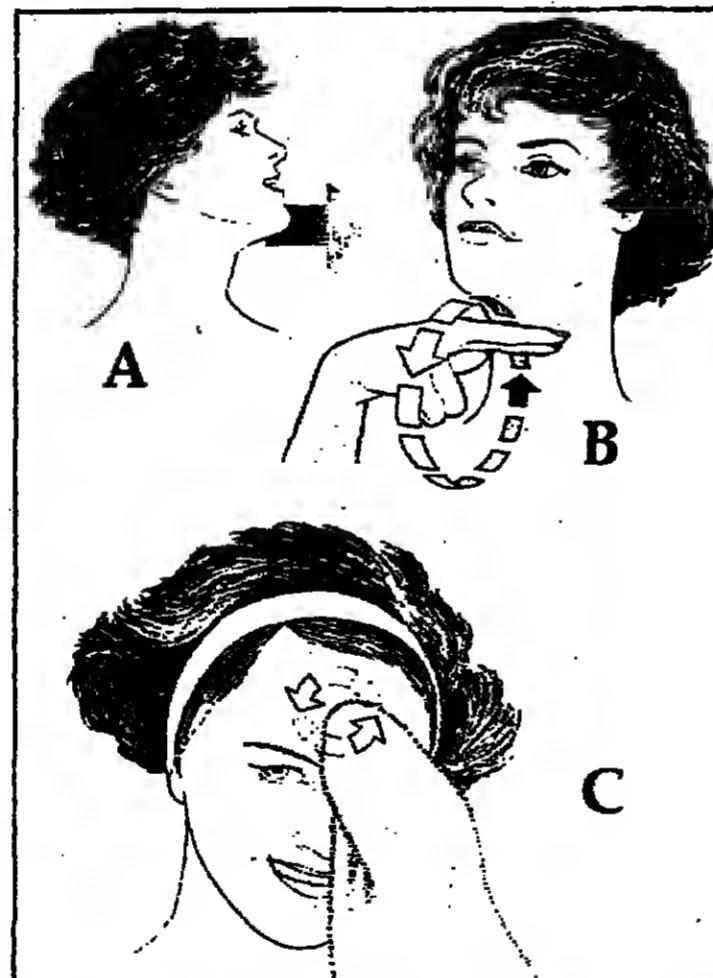
• Getting to grips with lines on the forehead is tough. All you can do is stimulate the tissue there.

After having a shower or a bath, take a towel and start making circles from the centre of the forehead, working outwards. Then do the same thing in the reverse direction.

Keep this up as long as your arms will let you. It will help to plump up the tissue.

because they had atrophied through lack of use, that part had lost its tone.

• I had to do something to her. Her face was so important to her as she was on the stage. I asked myself what I could do. The answer was to use my background of anatomy, physiology and manipulation.



"It was a case of trial and error. But, eventually, the formerly paralysed side of the girl's face ended up looking better than the other. So I had to work on the 'normal' side to even things up."

So, like so many more historic discoveries, face contouring was born

by accident. Dr Schneider wisely moved his practice to Tinsel Town, where looking good is something of a religion.

Sure enough, the stars made their pilgrimage to his Hollywood office, where he smoothed some of their worst wrinkles away.

other inventions have patents pending. One of his more recent invention, according to Resnick, is "the most significant piece of work" he's done to date.

The Water Pollution Eradication device (WAPED — pronounced wapid) just may be the solution for oil spills that the oil industry has been looking for, Resnick says. WAPED is a biological product (a lipase-producing yeast strain) which uses a NASA — developed technology to aid in cleaning up spilled petroleum product. "It's cost-effective, it's quick. And it's environmentally benign in its results," says Resnick.

It works by encapsulating an organism into a shell," Resnick explains. "The shells can range from 23 micrometres to 1000 micrometres (about 1/8 of an inch in

diameter). The organisms float along the sides of the Kornfeld Rotary Reactor (the NASA technology developed in 1979), which then pushes the organisms out through the bottom and encapsulates them inside microballoons, along with a nutrient substance.

"As soon as the organism inside of the microballoons comes into the proximity of the oil, it immediately starts to eat the hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, or whatever else is in there," Resnick says. "Then it starts to emit increased levels of lipase. Lipase is the key here because this is what breaks down the hydrocarbons. It breaks the hydrogen into its constituent elements and everything goes into carbon."

Resnick continues. "Eventually this organism will eat so much oil and produce

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P.O. Box 2270,
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A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuaibah.

Cleaning up oil spills with Nasa technology

By Lynne Glover-Martin

ONE day in 1983, Joseph Resnick came home and threw \$40,000 on his kitchen table. "I want to invent, that's what I want to do," he said to his wife. The money on the table came from the sale of an apartment building he owned.

Today, Resnick is doing just that — inventing. He has patented the Container Tamer Detection Device (a tamper-proof bottle). The Resnick Tone Emitter (a miniature electronic "voice box" implanted in the dentures of individuals who have lost their hearing as a result of injury or cancer), and the Resnick Speech Teacher (a device to help deaf and hearing-impaired persons achieve better speech). And 17 of his 43

other inventions have patents pending. One of his more recent invention, according to Resnick, is "the most significant piece of work" he's done to date.

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Britain's laziest man

Nick's in no hurry to stop yawning



Time saver: Nick irons just the iron of his shirt... 'why iron the parts no one can see'

Paris traffic solution

Laser: a metro concept for cars

PARIS, (AP): The French think one way of addressing Paris' notoriously clogged traffic is to put it underground.

"Like all the big European cities, we've reached saturation point," said Jean-Michel Gambard, chief of the roads department for the government's Centre of Urban Transport Studies and one of those reviewing futuristic plans for privately funded and operated underground roadways.

"There's a constant jam and all the classical solutions of wider roads and more roads aren't working. They just cause more congestion."

Prime Minister Michel Rocard has endorsed the underground concept, saying it could make more room on the streets for pedestrians and buses.

The idea goes back to 1987, when the engineering firm GTM-Entrepôse submitted its plan to Mayor Jacques Chirac, at the time also France's prime minister.

Called the Underground Regional Express Automobile Link and known by its high-tech French Acronym Laser, the project envisions a about 30 miles (48 kilometers) of roadway 100 to 165 feet (30 to 50 meters) below the surface.

Drivers will enter the system through 20 access points around Paris and its suburbs and descend into a tubular, double-decked road system with three lanes of traffic heading in both directions.

Traffic now creeps along at about 10 mph (16 kmph) and officials expect it would move at about 40 mph (65 kmph) underground.

Cars will surface at key points like the Champs-Elysées and the Montparnasse train station or shoot directly across Paris to the ring motorway that bypasses the city's centre.

Video cameras would keep an eye on the traffic and computer-controlled gates would close off entrances after accidents. Police and firefighters on foot could enter the tunnels at emergency entrances every 875 yards (800 metres).

"Laser is a metro concept for cars," said André Breton, GTM-entrepôse's chief engineer. The metro

is Paris' subway system.

"We believe that in 15 or 20 years, each suburb, each district, will have its Laser station," Berto said.

Drivers would be charged a toll, ranging from 10 francs (1.72 dollars) at night to 20 francs (3.44 dollars) at rush hour.

"We are selling time to our customers," Berto said. "It appears there are a lot of people willing to pay. Sooner or later, all of us are in a hurry."

Mayor Chirac has expressed interest in both Laser and its chief rival, a project called Hysope submitted by the giant Bouygues construction group in December.

Both rely on private financing, with Laser costing about 16 billion francs (\$2.76 billion) in its first stages and the Bouygues project weighing in at 1.5 billion to 18 billion francs (\$2.58 billion to 3.10 billion).

The main difference between the two is that the Bouygues project doesn't let cars exit downtown, but forces drivers to leave their vehicles in underground parking lots — addressing Chirac's concern to rid the capital of parked cars.

Last fall, Chirac announced plans to eliminate 100,000 parking spaces to free up new lanes for surface traffic and discourage car ownership.

But neither Laser nor Hysope would cure all the city's transportation ills. The plans would eliminate only 15 per cent of the one million cars that come from the suburbs to the city centre each day, mixing in with 1.4 million already here.

Critics fear, however, that more space on the streets would only encourage more people to drive.

"The object should be to recuperate the places freed by the cars for other things," said Gambard, the roads department head. "It's necessary not just to have a road underneath the ground, but global plan on buses, pedestrians, parking and trains."

He added: "Before the war everyone rode bicycles. Now the cars make that impossible. Maybe someday we'll be able to see bicycles again."

Carsten, GTM-entrepôse's chief engineer. The metro

Uranium industry

East Germans try to lift cloud of secrecy

SEELINGSTAEDT, East Germany, (Reuters): Few things have spawned more rumours and caused more anxiety in East Germany than its vast and secret uranium industry.

Lung cancer, miscarriages, genetic defects, impotence — even hair loss — are more frequent in the southern mining region where the industry is based than elsewhere, according to residents and the Protestant church.

There are villages in the shadow of coal slag heaps or near dried-out radioactive sludge pools where people complain of permanent lethargy.

Wismut — the 40,000-strong joint Soviet-East German company that mines and processes uranium ore — is giving statistics and details about its operations for the first time, but few accept them as accurate or truthful.

"We want to lift the cloud of secrecy and sensationalism that has enveloped Wismut," said spokesman Frank Mueller.

"Our own medical service and doctors have no proof cancer, miscarriages and other complaints occur more frequently among the mining community."

Horst Jochs, manager of the firms' Seelingstaedt processing factory, said that

for 40 years Wismut had remained an elaborate state within the state, a secret arm of the communist system for strategic reasons.

Wismut's annual output of an estimated 4,500 tonnes of uranium is shipped exclusively to the Soviet Union and until this year was used for its atomic bombs and power plants.

"Now we are experiencing the disadvantages of this secrecy. We are providing data about environmental and health hazards, and they are actually quite good. But people understandably say, 'why should we believe you now?'" Jochs said.

"Let's be clear, this is not a chocolate factory," he said, addressing Westerners in his plant for the first time. There were risks as in other industries, he admitted.

Seelingstaedt's 1,700 workers process a still secret amount of ore each year, turning it from coal-like rock into fine brown uranium concentrate. Ore comes from six mines dotted across the southern East Germany along the Czechoslovak border.

At Paitzdorf, not far from Seelingstaedt, young miners ride in a tiny cage hundreds of metres underground to drill, blast and dig the slate-grey rock.

A constant rush of cool air circulates

through the long dark tunnels, reducing exposure to radioactive radon gas emitted from the ore. Water is used when drilling and sprayed everywhere to smother the potentially cancer-inducing dust.

Veteran miner Fritz Mueller, who has worked for Wismut since 1955, said for the first few years he shovelled ore and pushed wagons by hand. Now the ore is loaded into carts by mechanical diggers and hauled away by mini-locomotives.

"It's hard work, but you get used to it," said 21-year-old face worker Joerg Ander-

sch. "I only do it for the money."

He earns about 2,000 marks (1,200 dollars), almost double the average wage in East Germany, and enjoys other perks.

"The major worry is the dust, but we use a lot of water here," said Ander-

sch.

Wismut miners register 150 new cases of lung cancer each year, but company officials say 98 per cent of these occur in men who have been working for the company since the 1940s and 1950s when drilling was done dry and dust was everywhere.

A 1988 Protestant church report, the most detailed study of Wismut ever published, said the number of cases was still higher than average but gave no figures.

Ironically, it is the ventilation shafts that help miners underground which cause pollution above it by blasting dust and radioactive radon gas into the atmosphere. The radon dissipates but the dust settles on houses and agricultural land.

According to Wismut officials, the worst environmental problems are the dust expelled from the shafts and particles from dried-out reservoirs used for storing sludge from the processing plant and from mine boring.

Without minimising the pollution, they say radioactivity from such sources and from slag heaps is negligible and lower than natural radiation except in certain isolated cases.

For 40 years Wismut did not respond to reports and rumours about its operations and the hazards caused by them.

But in the last month it has scrambled to join the open debate on ecology that began with the overthrow of the old guard communist leadership last October and November. It is also promising to clean up its operations as fast as it can.

"We have a committee with the local people. They watch up like hawks,"



Sleepy head: Everything is too much of an effort for lazy Nick, even yawning

Retirement
The best thing of all. Don't think that you can't afford it. Look at your situation and decide whether you need the money or just want it.

Reading

Always get your books from the library so they don't clutter the house and you don't have to tidy them. Always chose authors whose names begin with the letter 'A', they are the closest to the checkout counter. And only get paperbacks, they are much lighter.

The best way to read is in short bursts — it can be very trying to read for long periods.

Gardening

Shaving isn't really necessary. If God had wanted us to be close shaven he would never have given us hair. If you are challenged, tell people it's designer stubble, or say you are growing a beard for a part in a play. That will always impress them. And keep you away from the gossamer work of shaving.

Shoes

Trainers are best because they last longer and you don't have to clean them. If they are dirty just look like you have been exercising in them.

If one of your shoes wear out, then wear one from another pair.

Washing-up

Never use more than one plate a day. Never dry the plate after you have washed it because it will eventually dry itself. There is no need to put the plate away



Pillow talk: reporter Kate interviews Nick in his favourite place

Trying to impress

This is often known as posing. Don't bother, just be yourself. Trying to be someone else is too much hard work. You will waste time and energy keeping the image up.

Hotels

Always stay in a hotel where breakfast is an extra. It only costs you to get it again for the next meal. The same, of course, goes for the knife and fork.

When he came to a canyon, to go in and follow it, too.

Rafio said they lead their horses down a steep ravine covered with small rocks, to the banks of a river that ran at its base.

We followed the river, thinking it would lead us out.

Hours later, Bonifati and Raffo came up against a cliff wall and the stream disappeared beneath.

"We had to go back and walk back up the mountain, sideways, because it was so steep," said Raffo. "It took us all day to get out of the canyon."

"The farmer told us to follow the valleys,"

Raffo said. "So we followed them, and he said

Couple on horseback

Riding for peace from coast to coast

For the couple, who were married in Rio Turbio in the province of Patagonia four months after they set out, the trip has been a mixture of beauty and frustration.

They show pictures of 8-foot icicles hanging from fiftreets in the Andes, a treeless green valley under deep purple skies in the Argentine Pampas.

They speak of the perils and triumphs of their journey.

"That was where we got lost," said Raffo, pointing to a picture of dusty rock canyons in the Argentine Andean province of Neuquen, that might have been Arizona or New Mexico.

"The farmer told us to follow the valleys,"

Raffo said. "So we followed them, and he said

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FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALEAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: My husband had a lump in his testicle. After prolonged nagging he went to see the doctor. The doctor held a light behind the testicle and said he could see light through it, so it was only a cyst and nothing to worry about. A couple of years later, without any reason which we can figure, that testicle has swollen to twice its size and has remained swollen. The doctor has said by telephone that if it doesn't hurt, don't worry about it. These are good messages from a doctor.

ANSWER: Your desire for a better explanation is certainly valid. Let's first consider what the mass is in the scrotum or sac, rather than a part of the testicle. Such "cysts" are commonly known as "hydroceles" and are filled with a clear, sterile fluid that results from overproduction and reduced absorption of the fluid produced by tissues within the scrotum. This fluid production may become increased when an inflammation exists such as that following an infection or trauma.

Another type of cyst found in the testes is a spermatic cyst or "spermatocele" which lies adjacent to the epididymis, a structure that stores sperm. The spermatocele also contains sperm. It often allows light to pass through, as the doctor did during his examination, and telling this apart from a hydrocele is often quite difficult. However, most doctors do agree that if these masses are not too big, and do not cause pain and discomfort, they are best left alone.

Needle aspiration, that draws off the fluid into a syringe, is at best, temporary and may result in an infection. The only totally effective treatment to remove these liquid-filled cysts is surgical removal and from the sound of it,

plain old-fashioned nagging won't persuade your husband to undergo an operation he really doesn't need.

QUESTION: I have just been cured of my second episode with pelvic inflammatory disease. Now, the "good news" from my doctor is I'm at great risk of having ectopic pregnancy. Why? Are there other complications from PID?

ANSWER: Unfortunately, with every episode of pelvic inflammatory disease (also known as salpingitis), your risk of ectopic pregnancy or other complications grows. PID may cause scarring and adhesions in your fallopian tubes, which lead from the ovaries to the uterus. Normally, the fertilized egg becomes implanted in the womb, but it may be get there by travelling down the fallopian tubes. If it's a scarred area, where the tube is narrowed or twisted by adhesions, it may get stuck, and the egg may develop outside of the womb (ectopic pregnancy).

A woman who has had one or more incidences of PID is 10 times more likely to have an ectopic pregnancy. Other frequent complications of PID include infertility, pelvic pain, chronic PID and pelvic abscess. Should an abscess occur, patients should be hospitalized and treated with triple antibiotic therapy. If the abscess isn't properly dealt with, there is a possibility of widespread peritonitis, and it can be deadly. Your best chance lies in frequent checkups, including pelvic examinations and culture to avoid future problems.

Dr Allan Bruckheim welcomes questions from readers. Although he cannot respond to each one individually, he will answer those of general interest in his column. Write to Dr Bruckheim to care of the newspaper, P.O. Box 119, Orlando, Fla. 32802-0119.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Lip 11 as 1500

Oil market stability vital

Opec talks to smooth way for ministerial meeting

MANAMA, Bahrain, March 4, (AP): The weekend meeting in Kuwait of the Saudi Arabian, Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil ministers on production and pricing will smooth the way for the upcoming ministerial sessions of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Gulf oil sources said today.

Hisham Nazer of Saudi Arabia, Issam Chalabi of Iraq and Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah of Kuwait met for four hours on Saturday.

Prior to the meeting, Iraq called for raising the \$18 per barrel reference price by limiting production in face of the world's increasing demand for oil.

Saudi Arabia has indicated it wants higher production.

The Kingdom, the world's largest oil-exporting nation and the dominant party within the 13-nation organisation, has favoured moderate production

and the need for the Opec quota system.

A tight lid was imposed on the deliberations of the three ministers, but a terse statement by the Kuwaiti News Agency later said they were "in complete agreement that their countries should uphold Opec's resolutions and its endeavours to stabilise the oil market."

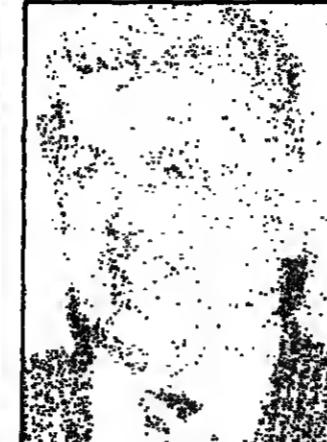
The statement, attributed to unidentified sources, said the aim was to secure the interests of all oil-producing countries.

The oil sources, who spoke on condition they not be named, said the Kuna statement indicated that the Saudis induced the other two Opec heavyweights to a common line.

The Kingdom, the world's largest oil-exporting nation and the dominant party within the 13-nation organisation, has favoured moderate production



Sheikh Ali



Al Chalabi

and prices provided its own interests are not imperiled.

The Saudi minister stressed earlier that a common stance among the three was instrumental at the last Opec ministerial

session in November.

The organisation agreed on a 22-million-barrel daily production ceiling with the aim of defending the \$18 per barrel price for the first six months of 1990.

An 8-member Opec market monitoring committee meeting is scheduled for Vienna on March 16 to review the situation halfway to a full meeting in June. Most if not all Opec ministers are expected to show up in Vienna for the upcoming meeting.

Since the November agreement prices on the world oil market have risen beyond the \$18 price, despite production well above the quota. Prices were buoyed by the high winter demand for oil, which lingers on summer.

Saudi King Fahd and his ministers late last year, when the kingdom's fiscal budget was being finalised, expressed satisfaction with their Opec quota of 5.38 million barrels per day assigned for the Jan-June 1990 months. For the preceding years since the mid-1980s, there had been only dissatisfaction.

The sources said that the kingdom also advocates a pricing

and production policy that does not upset the economies of its major trading partners, notably in the United States and Western Europe.

Nazer is heading next week to New York for the lecture circuit and the sources expected he will sound out prospects for a gradual increase in oil prices to offset world inflation rates. This would be in line with the proposal by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The sources said the proposed increase would likely have to wait until after the summer season passed.

A major thrust in Opec's side will be the United Arab Emirates demand for roughly doubling the quota of 1.095 million barrels per day assigned at the November meeting, a quota it rejected. It is now self-pledged to produce two million barrels per day.

Gulf Bank weekly market review

KD rates mostly firm

Kuwaiti dinar

BASED on last week's opening middle market foreign exchange rates, the KD exchange rate traded lower against the US dollar ending the week at 292.32 fils compared with its week before last closing of 290.14 fils. The KD was higher against the pound sterling, ending the week at 489.55 fils compared with its week before last closing of 496.14 fils. The KD was higher against the DM ending the week at 171.09 fils compared with its week before last closing of 173.50 fils.

The KD was also higher against the SFR ending the week at 194.94 fils compared with its week before last closing of 196.20 fils. The KD was higher against the Canadian dollar ending the week at 245.60 fils compared with its week before last closing of 246.3 fils. The KD was also higher against the Australian dollar ending the week at 221.87 fils compared with its week before last closing at 222.39 fils, according to Gulf Bank weekly market review.

The KD was lower against the Jordanian dinar ending the week at 433.87 fils compared with its week before last closing of 431.11 fils. The KD remained almost firm against most other GCC currencies compared to the week before last rates.

As for the KD money market, short term interbank offer rates, as well as long term rates traded at the same level over the previous week. One-month, 3-months, 6-months, and 12-months interbank offer rates traded at 8.75 per cent same as the week before last level.

As for Treasury Bills, the KD announced its new T-Bill issue No. (98) of KD 20 million, with effective and maturity dates of March 7 and June 6, 1990, respectively.

World stock markets

Wall Street share prices moved higher last week, as the market's apparent ability to weather negative developments drew in buyers through the week. Technical and futures related buying firm and renewed confidence about stocks fuelled the rally. The Dow Jones Industrial opened the week at 2660 and closed at 2660, recording a gain of 96 points over the previous week's closing at 2564.

Shares prices on the London Stock Exchange firmed moderately last week as institutional buying and short-covering induced a recovery, which gained momentum when Wall Street proved resilient to Tokyo's fall. However, the rally looks fragile as trading volume remains comparatively thin, as people are still reluctant to commit money to equities. The Fins 100 opened the week at 2249 and closed at 2254, recording a gain of 18 points over the previous week's closing at 2236.

US dollar

The dollar traded firm over the week against major currencies especially against yen. The dollar could have risen further if it had not been for the Fed who sold dollars heavily to prevent it from rising further, while the release of a record crop in US durable goods helped also to dampen the dollar's rise.

US durable goods orders for the month of January dropped a record 10.5 per cent after a revised 1.4 per cent increase in December. The last comparable drop in overall durable orders was a 9.2 per cent decline in February of 1982. The January fall left durable goods orders at \$11.16 billion compared with \$13.95 billion in December. US durable goods orders are usually closely watched as an indicator of the economy's health which suggests continued softness in the manufacturing and leasing of airplanes. Busey said.

That creates a pressing need for a more global approach to regulating the safety of aeroplanes, he said.

"We must find ways to harmonise national regulations so that we can be certain that adequate and continued airworthiness standards are being maintained for such aircraft," he said.

In addition, he said, the Miryair air-transport a agreements the United States holds with other nations often serve to stifle advances in the airline industry.

Japanese yen

The yen opened the week against the US dollar at 148.60/70 yen and closed the week sharply lower at 150.30/40 yen compared with its week before last closing at \$1.7030/00.

The UK currency fell sharply last week after news of much worse than expected UK trade data for January which showed a trade deficit of \$20 billion and a current account gap of \$1.9 billion. December's trade deficit figure was revised down to \$917 million from \$1.1 billion, while the current account figure was revised down to \$917 million from \$1.2 billion. However, government officials said the figures were erratic and the three-month trend of rising exports and flat imports gave a more accurate picture.

Pound sterling

The pound opened the week against the US dollar at \$1.6920/30 and closed sharply lower at \$1.6455/85 compared to its week before last closing at \$1.7030/00.

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The January current account for the UK fell against the dollar has been partly attributed to a speculative although its down.

Japan's January current account dropped to \$147.05/15 yen. The yen fell against the dollar has been partly attributed to a speculative although its down.

Japan's January current account stands at \$636 million in deficit after a \$621 million surplus a year earlier. The overall current surplus narrowed steadily in calendar 1989, to \$56.98 billion from \$79.63 billion a year earlier.

Factors which were involved in the case of Japan's current account were the initial effects of a weaker yen on exports, higher oil prices and slowing auto exports.

Deutsche mark

The mark opened the week against the US dollar at 1.6870/80 marks and closed the week lower at 1.7185/95 marks compared to its week before last closing at 1.6780/90 marks.

The mark weakness was partly due to worries over German monetary unity, since it is feared to increase inflation. Later in the week the mark fell further after demands by East German central bank Horst Kramm that the 117 billion savings in East German marks to be exchanged at one-to-one for West German marks.

Other currencies

The French franc opened the week against the US dollar at 5.7090/20 Ffr and closed sharply lower at 5.8045/75 Ffr, compared to its week before last closing at 5.6820/50 Ffr. French trade deficit narrowed to 790 million Ffr in January from a revised 2.44 billion Ffr in December, demonstrating that the government's economic policies are working.

Precious metals

Precious metals prices eased last week undermined by the higher dollar, the fall in Tokyo's Nikkei Index and selling by Japanese who needed cash to cover losses after sharp drops in Tokyo share prices.

Gold: Gold bullion prices opened the week at \$41.30/41.80 and closed at \$40.25/40.75 recording a loss of \$1.75 over the previous week's closing at \$41.64/40.

Silver: Silver bullion prices opened the week at \$5.22/5.34 and closed lower at \$5.12/5.14, recording a loss of 14 cents over the previous week's closing at \$5.26/2.58.

Platinum: Platinum prices opened the week at \$514.515 and closed lower at \$507.50/508.50, recording a loss of \$17 over the previous week's closing at \$524.50/525.50.

King Fahd's message to Saddam

Nazer in Iraq for talks on oil policy

BAGHDAD, Iraq, March 4, (Agencies): Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer met with President Saddam Hussein today for talks on co-ordinating oil policy, officials said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Nazer delivered a letter from King Fahd on the issue, but refused to go into details.

The talks came a day after Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia met in Kuwait to discuss oil pricing and production quotas, two weeks ahead of a meeting of the oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna.

They declined to make any statement after their private discussions, but oil industry sources said a decision by the big three might give a clue to what Opec's 13 members would adopt at the March 16 meeting.

Iraq has urged other major Gulf producers to restrain production to achieve a higher price than the current \$18 barrel a target.

Saudi Arabia is reported in favour of increasing production above the 22 million barrels a day

agreed on for the six-month period ending in June.

The kingdom was expected to demand a rise in its quota. The

United Arab Emirates has also said it wants a higher quota.

"Iraq is facing difficulty in selling crude, so it wants to compensate with higher prices," one analyst said.

The Saudi position is that they stick to their Opec quota and expect others to do likewise. A Gulf oil official who is close to Saudi government thinking said today.

Kuwait does not want oil prices to exceed Opec's reference price of \$18 per barrel so its European retail outlets can sell more, the sources said.

But in the short term, prices are expected to decline gradually, due to personally lower second quarter demand and continued quota busting by some Opec members.

Eight Opec oil ministers will meet in Vienna on March 16 to discuss the quotas of production of the 13-member states of Opec and co-operation between the organisation and the non-Opec oil producers.

The eight ministers are members of the Opec committee assigned with monitoring prices and

laying down a long-term strategy for the organization.

The committee groups oil and energy ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela.

Representatives of other Opec members are also due to attend the ministerial committee meeting.

The recent meeting of Opec oil ministers, held late last November in Vienna, decided to increase the Opec output to 22 million barrels a day during the first half of 1990 and on a base price of \$18 a barrel.

Opec sources said that the meetings of the eight Opec ministers would be decisive due to the conflicting viewpoints among the member states regarding continuation of observing the quotas of production.

The meetings are also viewed as important in the light of the radical changes that took place in Eastern Europe and the result of these changes on the supply and demand for oil and the policy of the Soviet Union which has been the main supplier of oil for East European countries.

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The



Expert calls for tighter control on public fund

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

MEHDI AL BAZZAZ of the World Bank urged Arab states to turn their central banks into independent entities as a means of running their economies, plagued by budget deficits, on sound economic and financial grounds.

The move could help control public spending and cut the budget deficit. Bazzaz, the regional co-ordinator at the Bank's Economic Development Institute, said, He is in Kuwait to attend a seminar on public expenditure management being held at the Arab Planning Institute.

The expert called for a tighter control on public money saying that Arab countries are spending more than they are earning. While the oil-rich Gulf states can afford to "paper over" the resulting problems, the poorer countries are mired in a deepening economic slump, he said.

He proposed the states separate fiscal and monetary authorities to allow their central banks to make monetary policy decisions free of political influence, which is largely responsible for economic upheavals in the Arab world.

He also insisted that government spending policies should be open for public discussion, in different forums and media, instead of being treated as a prerogative of a small number of officials. "The public should have greater access to information and openly debate the pros and cons of public policies," he said.

Excessive public expenditure stems from a momentous growth of the public sector from the 1960s that led to oversized bureaucracies, heavy subsidies and poor investments. The overall picture showed the lack of control over the quality and level of expenditures," Bazzaz said.

As the spending exceeds the income the Arab states resort to printing more money, relying on foreign grants or arbitrary lay-offs of civil servants. Each of these measures has only sharpened the crisis.

Among the remedies Bazzaz recommends are cost recovery measures such as health and education fees targeting the middle and higher income bracket.

Subsidies, he said, should be portioned out in the form of an allowance for the poorest sections of the community instead of cut-price essential foodstuffs at present available even for the well-to-do families. Privatisation, although still a controversial topic, is also promoted by the World Bank as a means of matching the expenditure with revenues.

Fund offer extended

SCIMITAR is extending the offer period for its Guaranteed Currency Fund to March 23.

Commenting on this development, John Kirkham, director, explained: "We have been very pleased with the high level of interest in the Guaranteed Currency Fund with many requests for prospectuses still coming in. In order to meet the demands of this group of potential investors it has been decided to keep the Fund open for investment for an additional 14 days.

Period	Offer	Offered
1 month	8-1/2	8-3/4
3 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
6 months	8-1/2	8-3/4
1 year	8-1/2	8-3/4

Premier to face expected grilling by opposition parties

Kaifu vows to reduce trade imbalance

TOKYO, March 4. (UPI): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu returned to Japan today after a two-day summit with President Bush in the southern California desert where he vowed to "firmly tackle" causes of the burgeoning US-Japanese trade imbalance in pursuit of a "global partnership" with Washington.

Kaifu, who arrived at Tokyo's city airport on a special charter, will get little chance to rest from his trans-Pacific flight.

On Monday morning, Kaifu returns to the Japanese parliament to face an expected grilling by opposition parties over how he plans to honour pledges made to Bush to reform Japan's economic structure.

Teruo Yamaguchi, secretary-general of the major opposition Japan Socialist Party, blasted Kaifu earlier today for "accepting unilateral US demands" and "lacking his own individual diplomacy."

Yamaguchi said Kaifu showed his weakness by failing to tackle the many trade issues on his own without being forced into a summit by Washington.

At the conclusion of their talks in Rancho Mirage, California, Kaifu and Bush promised to attack root causes of economic tension resulting from Japan's almost \$50 billion annual trade surplus with the United States.

Although their rhetoric lacked specifics, each professed after two days of talks among the palm-lined fairways of morningside country club to be satisfied the political will exists for resolving their economic differences.

"Nobody ever goes far enough to do everything exactly the way we want it," Bush said at a post-summit news conference. "But I think for those who understand the complexities of this relationship at this juncture, we got everything out of this meeting we had hoped for."

With the threat of retaliation hanging over US demands for more open Japanese markets, Bush said the talks left Kaifu very aware of the consequences of failure "to move forward" in trade negotiations now underway.

White House Press Secretary Martin Flitman said Bush apprised Kaifu of the "considerable protectionist sentiment" on Capitol Hill, but did not do so in "any threatening context."

As a conciliatory gesture, Bush accepted Japanese arguments that trade expansion is a "two-way street" that will require the United States to strengthen its own economy and take other steps to complete in world markets.

No onerous breakthroughs would occur on a set of such complex trade problems as separate the two countries, routed as they are in cultural, economic and political differences.

Indeed, both sides worked to minimize expectations and separate the frustration produced by the sluggish pace of other ongoing US-Japanese talks aimed at removing the structural causes of the US trade deficit with Japan.

The determination to avoid

serious negotiations was evidenced by the absence of top US and Japanese trade officials from the Bush-Kaifu meetings. While specific trade problems were reviewed, actual item-by-item progress was left to others.

"I don't know that we need new ideas," Bush said. "We just need new energy on both sides."

But neither side could deny the timeliness of the two-day talks, coming as those concurrent negotiations near a spring deadline for interim progress, and as the administration weighs retaliation and the initiation of new unfair-trade complaints against Japan.

"Look, we weren't here to throw down definitive deadlines. That's not the way you deal with Japan," Bush said when asked when he expected progress. "But the sooner the better."

Japan, branded an unfair trader last May under "Super '80" provisions of the 1985 trade law, could be hit with sanctions in the next few months if it refuses to open its markets to American-made supercomputers, satellites and wood products.

Last September, Japan and the United States launched a separate structural impediment initiative to explore fundamental causes of their large trade imbalance and head off any move by Congress to enact tougher trade laws that would only escalate tensions.

The US side wants Japan to increase public investment, encourage consumption, reform its land use policies, open its retail distribution system and end anti-competitive business practices to expand opportunities for US companies.

Japan, on the other hand, contends the United States has its own bad habits to blame — including a low savings rate, short-sighted corporate strategies, over-regulating and inadequate research and development — for any loss of competitive edge.

Told by Bush the United States will look to correct these shortcomings, Kaifu promised Tokyo's own effort to expand domestic Japan's demand and market access for imported goods.

"I am determined to tackle structural reforms of Japan as one of the top priorities of my new cabinet with a view to improving the quality of

Japanese life with further stress on the consumer-oriented economy," Kaifu said. "I hope that the United States, on its part, will promote structural adjustment as the president has said."

US officials had looked to Kaifu to move the SII talks forward after the Feb 18 Japanese elections, from which his Liberal Democratic Party emerged victorious, to give them reason to sound a note of optimism in the interim report on US-Japanese trade due in April.

Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shigeo Takenaka said Secretary of State James Baker had emphasized that "a political decision from the very top" was needed to produce a "useful" report to propose the talks.

Senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official Mitoj Yamamoto and Kaifu "felt the sense of urgency that Bush was trying to convey."

Before leaving Tokyo, Kaifu who sandwiched the quick trip to California between appearances before Japan's Diet, or parliament, announced initiatives touching on some US demands. But his pledge at the time to "make every possible effort for progress" met with a certain degree of scepticism.

So too did the Dec 19 Japanese announcement of an "improvised" programme to spur imports of manufactured goods through tax credits, tariff reductions and public promotion.

The question unanswered as Bush and Kaifu met among the

playgrounds of the rich was whether Kaifu has the political courage to undertake economic and behavioral changes sought by the United States and, if so, whether he has the political clout to deliver them — in time.

Trade experts noted Kaifu's promise to act but said the Japanese members of his cabinet, who had failed to honour such agreements in the past, citing promises to open Japan's market to US semiconductors and construction services.

Summit meetings are usually finely tuned by officials far ahead of time, but the Bush-Kaifu summit was set only one week ago — shortly after Kaifu won parliamentary elections giving him a firmer leadership foothold.

The fact that Bush asked for the meeting at such short notice and that Kaifu readily accepted showed the extent of the strains threatening US-Japanese ties.

Bush's remarks indicated however, that the meeting may have paid off in producing some changes in Japan.

"We're facing some important deadlines, and the prime minister and I are calling on our officials to redouble their efforts to achieve meaningful interim and final results," the President said.

Some officials said this might constitute the marching orders that US and Japanese negotiators need to break an impasse and resolve the nagging issues that are straining relations between the two big economic powers.

Governments urged to reassure investors

Experts call to step up inter-Arab investment

KUWAIT, March 4. (Reuters): Arab investment experts met in Kuwait today to discuss ways of boosting inter-Arab commercial investment, which they say plunged by 50 per cent during the 1980s.

"The problems and impediments that face Arab private investment flows are manifold," said Mamoun Ibrahim Hassan, head of the Kuwait-based Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC).

"While we (agree) they exist we differ on determining their relative importance," he told the IAIGC-sponsored conference. "It is also difficult to deal with those issues in the absence of basic documented facts."

Hassan said that during the 1980s commercial investment due to lower oil prices was a major factor but political instability and



Mamoun Ibrahim Hassan

around \$3 billion from 6.2 billion in the previous decade.

A sharp fall in surplus capital due to lower oil prices was a major factor but political instability

and impediments that face Arab private investment flows are manifold," said Mamoun Ibrahim Hassan, head of the Kuwait-based Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC).

He said this was mainly due to the fact that the IAIGC — owned by 22 Arab governments — had reached its exposure ceiling for Iraq, which had provided most of the demand for guarantee cover.

The problem in the Arab world is that countries which have money don't have investment opportunities while the countries which do, don't have any money," he said.

Governments should reassure private investors that there would be no interference in their projects and investment agencies should process work permits for foreigners more quickly, he said.

"Investors are reluctant to go to agencies which have routine bureaucratic problems like

these," he said.

IAIGC operation director Abdellrahman Taha told Reuters the total value of contracts signed by the firm during 1989 fell to \$99 million from \$239 million in 1988.

He said this was mainly due to the fact that the IAIGC — owned by 22 Arab governments — had reached its exposure ceiling for Iraq, which had provided most of the demand for guarantee cover.

"The problem in the Arab world is that countries which have money don't have investment opportunities while the countries which do, don't have any money," he said.

The IAIGC was set up in 1974 to encourage investment flows between Arab states by providing guarantees for non-commercial risks such as nationalisation, non-repayment of capital and war.

KD deposit rates firm

KUWAIT, March 4. (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates firms marginally in a tight market, dealers said.

One dealer said a single bank had been seeking funds, putting slight upward pressure on rates.

The Central Bank announced a 50 million dinar (\$170 million) bond issue for March 10 settlement. The one-year bonds carry a 8-1/2 per cent yield.

Short-dated deposits up to one week edged up 1/16 point from Saturday to 8-3/4 9-1/16 per cent. Fixed dates were little changed at 8-3/4 1/2. Trade was limited to the short end of the market.

The Central Bank left its dinar exchange rate unchanged from Saturday at 0.3929/9302 to the dollar.

Meanwhile, Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates were mostly steady today in a virtually dead market, dealers said.

Spot-dates were unmoved from Saturday at 8-1/8 7-7/8 per cent and one week was little changed at eight 7-1/2.

One month, however, eased to 7-7/8 11/16 from eight 7-7/8. Three months was little-changed at 8-1/8 7-15/16.

Bonn tells economists to bury their misgivings

BONN, March 4. (Reuters): The prospect of rapid currency union between the two Germanys is pitting world money markets but Bonn is telling West German economists to bury their misgivings and rally behind the national cause.

"What German economists do well is analysis, but what we need now is action," said Horst Telesh, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's foreign policy adviser, at a banking conference in Frankfurt on Saturday.

Currency union between the two Germanys, a first step to political union, is to be discussed by a joint East-West German commission on Monday, which hopes to hammer out the best way of introducing the West German mark into East Germany.

Bonn deputy government spokesman Dieter Vogel said today that no final decisions will be made until after East Germany's first free elections on March 18. But this is unlikely to calm the nerves of the international money markets.

West German economists share these concerns that rapid currency union could bring huge costs, weaken the powerful West German mark and spur inflation. They urged Bonn last month to adopt a more gradual process.

In a letter to the government's main economic advisers and the country's five leading economic research institutes, which rely on government research contracts, Bonn says they must fall into line.

History had overtaken the step-by-step plans laid out by the country's economists as the easiest way of achieving currency union, it said.

"As (Kremlin leader Mikhail) Gorbachev said: 'Who comes too late is punished by life.' In this case by being ignored," said State Secretary Otto Schlecht, the economy ministry's senior civil servant.

In the letter, made available to Reuters, Schlecht outlines seven points on which the Bonn government needs research on quick currency union.

Bonn wants speedy currency union because it believes this will stop East Germans from fleeing their country's economic collapse.

The 2,000 arriving daily are placing huge strains on West Germany's social security system.

BUSINESS and the economy sluggish

Dollar gets a boost

NEW YORK, March 4. (UPI): Theories that globalisation of financial markets has put Wall Street in the thrall of other world bourses were dealt a setback as a rally on the New York Stock Exchange closed a week begun with the clatter of falling prices on the Tokyo exchange.

The dollar also received a boost because of jittering Japanese financial markets and yen weakness blamed on Bank of Japan's hesitations over its long-awaited discount rate hike. The rally of the two Germanys towards monetary and political unification, seen as a key for the mark, helped too.

The Tokyo exchange's Nikkei Average plunged 1,369 points Monday, dropping 762 more points Thursday, but the Dow Jones average blithely went its own way to post steady gains. Analysts said investors' realisation Japan's market was in a local shakeout. Good US economic news helped too.

The US economy perked up in part, suggesting Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan may have achieved his "soft landing."

Revised 1989 fourth-quarter gross national product figures showed the period wasn't as bad as everyone thought. Durable goods orders plunged in January — but purchasing managers said orders rose in February for the first time since June, a sign recovery could be in progress.

Americans' personal income increased 0.8 per cent in January on the back of a federal pay raise and larger social security cheques, and the government said consumer spending nearly kept pace at 0.6 per cent. Retail stores said February results were up 5-6 per cent — better than expected.

Still, there were reminders that business and the economy are sluggish.

American Express Co. said it will pour \$750 million into its Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. investment subsidiary to improve its balance sheet and assure clients the troubled Wall Street firm won't go the way of Drexel Burnham Lambert Group Inc., now in bankruptcy court.

American Express had intended to reduce its 61-per cent stake in Shearson, but the capitalisation will boost it.



ASK celebrates silver anniversary

The American School of Kuwait (ASK) recently celebrated its Silver Jubilee Anniversary.

The celebration from 8am to 3pm, included folkloric displays representing about 22 different nationalities of enrolled students. It

was supervised by the school's Students Affairs Committee chaired by the outstanding student Rana Al Sadeq.

The classrooms were transformed into pavilions that depicted the countries of students. These pavilions contained several

exhibits including food and traditional handicrafts, which reflected traditional lifestyles of countries around the world.

Folkloric dances were also performed by many countries including Egypt, Palestine, America, Scandinavia, Lebanon and Kuwait.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia
Recent watercolours by Patricia Millins on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jabiya, Saturday thru. Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397; or 5318060.

SOCIAL

Amadeus Chamber Orchestra
THE world renowned 20 member Amadeus Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Agnieszka Duzmal will be performing at the Kuwait International on 4th and 5th March.

The Amadeus Chamber Orchestra has performed frequently in Poland and has toured over 18 European countries as well as the United States, Canada, Mexico and Brazil. Tickets on sale at: 2630000 ext 4010.

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel: 5634663.

The British Council

Study in Scotland Education Exhibition: The SAS Kuwait Hotel, Ballroom, 3-5 March, 4:00-8:00 pm daily. Come and meet professors and other senior staff from Scottish Universities and find out about courses and entry requirements. British Council staff will be there to welcome you and answer your questions about studying in the UK. For more information telephone: 252 0067/8/9 and ask for Kate Harries or Liz Lockey.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

The London Shakespeare Group who have played in more than 50 countries and who are presently on a tour of Middle East, will present "MACBETH" at the Kuwait English School, Salwa, on 21st and 22nd March at 8 am and 23rd March, 1990 at 6 pm. The cast includes actors and actresses with classical backgrounds who have appeared at London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End Theatres, Television and Radio. For ticket reservations & further information ring: 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143, or 5731782.

Now at Messilah Beach Hotel Health Club

LIFE Saving Courses with Royal Life Saving Society coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing in March 1990. Ergocycle fitness computer tests and courses now available. Jazercise/aerobics/staying power/yoga and ballet exercise classes also available. Swimming classes will commence March 1990.

APPROB essay competition

ASSOCIATION OF Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (APPROB) has extended the last date of its essay competition from 15th March to 15th April. The essay competition on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan" is being held on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays in Urdu or English, which should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words.

Four prizes of KD 100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr. Ali Jeffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali.

For further details, contact:

Tel: APPROB: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Announcement of Mushaira

PAKISTAN Arts Circle is organising: A Mushaira (recitation of poets) of selected poets of Kuwait on Thursday, March 8, at Rumaithiya, at the residence of Masood Rasheed Lone at 9 pm sharp.

Invitation cards are available with the secretary of Pakistan Arts Circle, Hamid Mahmood, Tel. 4716258.

A renowned poet from Delhi is expected and will preside over the Mushaira. Families already registered are kindly requested to collect their cards. New families are also welcome.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It commenced on Feb 11 and will be given up to March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 am - 12.30 pm or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

British Council

MARCH 10-22 at the gallery: An exhibition of award-winning British published books arranged by The British Council in association with the Kuwait Bookshop Co. Ltd. Orders of books on display, may be ordered through the Kuwait Bookshops which will also offer other British-published books at special prices.

Programme of events: Saturday, March 10, 6.00 pm — opening programme with a lecture by Ms Julia Eccles, one of UK's top authority on children's literature; announcement of winners for the Bookworm Contest for children aged 7-15 and formal opening of the exhibition.

Wednesday, March 14, 6.00 pm — Film Showing: The Worst Witch — film fantasy adapted from the children's book, "The Worst Witch" by Jill Murphy. It is the magical tale of a school for witches where things have a habit of going slightly awry. 70 min.

Thursday, March 15, 10.30 am — Story telling by professional story teller. Wednesday, March 21, 6.00 pm — film showing Asterix in Britain, The Movie. Go back, far back in time to 50 BC when the Britons stopped fighting for a tea break at 4:00 pm and everyone drank hot water with a little milk because tea hadn't been discovered yet. 75 min.

Thursday, March 22, 10:30 am — story telling by professional story teller.

Note: For all these events during the Children's Books Exhibition admission is free but please book in advance. The opening programme, however, is by invitation only. The exhibition is open to the public during regular library hours.

Ladies International League of Kuwait

JOIN us at our next meeting on Monday, March 5, at the Holiday Inn. Doors open at 3:30, programme at 4:30. Hope to see you ladies there. Door charge.

Daniella Desert Rally

The annual family rally for Danes will take place on Friday, March 23. For registration, please call Henrik — Tel: 3727688-92 ext. 246 before Wednesday, March 14.

Prize distribution

THE annual prize distribution ceremony of the Bangladesh School, Kuwait, will be held on March 9, (Friday) at 6-30 pm at the Ibn Taimiah Secondary School, Hasawi.

All Bangladeshi are cordially invited.

SPORTS

Strongman Competition

YOU are invited to come and see some of the strongest men in Kuwait compete for the title "Kuwait's Strongest Man 1990" or try your luck at one of the events. Engine lift, Weight toss, Trailer load, Truck pull, Endurance or Bench press.

Gates open at 9:00 am, prizes on entry tickets, garden fete, stalls, live bands, barbecue and entertainment.

For details contact Messilah Beach Hotel on 5624111 ext 739/751.

IAC One-Act Play competition

THE IAC has decided to extend the closing date for the II One-Act Play competition, to be held during May, to March 9. All Indian associations wishing to take part are asked to fill out the appropriate registration form obtainable from the IAC office (3904817) or any one of the organising committee members.

Contact

THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, 10 am, on Saturday, March 17. Newcomers particularly welcome. For further details tel. 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

Jazzercise

Connie will be resuming classes at Messilah Beach Hotel from 03/03/90. Classes are on Saturday 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm & Wednesday 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Be there.

Kuwait International Hotel

FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak — an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50

per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (Recreation).

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lane bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

LIFE SAVING COURSES:

With Royal Life Saving Society Coach, Grade I Examiner will be commencing in March 1990. Ergocycle fitness computer tests and courses now available. Jazercise / Aerobics / Staying power / Yoga and Ballet exercise classes also available. Swimming classes will commence March 1990.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City

Al Ghani Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem Street
Al Mutawa Pharmacy
Al Hilali Street
Hawalli and Nuqra
Al Khayam Pharmacy
Beirut Street
Salmiyah and Rumteibya
Al Nihadha Pharmacy
Baghdad Street
Fahheel and Ahmad
Ahu Hulaifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road
Jeleeb Al Shuyookh
Palestine Pharmacy
Main Street
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Souk

'PICTURES can be fun and easy', and Edwin Austin, the Seminar Coordinator for Eastman Kodak, New York is soon going to demonstrate this when he arrives in Kuwait to conduct the Kodak Photographic Seminar. A fast paced, fun filled, three-hour programme designed to help photographers understand and take better pictures with their 35mm cameras. Aided by hundreds of professional, high quality slides, Austin, an accomplished photographer and experienced photo instructor will take his audience through a fascinating presentation, involving details on every step of photography. After 3 hours most people should know a whole lot more on techniques like focussing, composition, lighting, close-ups, using the correct lenses and filters, getting the right exposure and of course choosing the right film to get the best pictures. Austin, whose work involves marketing and scheduling Photo Seminars all throughout the US has travelled extensively. His various assignments have taken him to over 50 US states and to a number of foreign countries. His first visit to the Middle East also promises to be a busy one, with more lectures in Oman, Bahrain, Cyprus and also the UAE.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher News
- 9.50 Cartoon Serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial (part 13)
- 11.45 From My Kitchen: Local Programme

- 12.05 Al Masiouf: Local Weekly Serial (part 8), starring Abdul Husain, Abdul Redha, Mohammed Jaber and Abdulrahman Khairi

- 12.30 News Summary

- 12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

- 10.15 Illa Al Shabah Maa Al Taheya: Arabic Serial (part 8)
- 11.15 Al Mawed: Variety Programme, prepared and presented by Tawfeeq Khalila, with guest star Shah Al Jazaeeri

- 12.20 News Summary

- 12.20 The World Today via Satellite

- 12.45 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

- 6.10 Winnie The Pooh: A cartoon series for Children.

- 6.30 Wild South. "Mangroves." A look at underwater Mangrove trees, their environment and forms of animal life that they feeds.

- 7.00 Roving Report.

- 7.30 Trap

- 8.00 News in English

- 8.30 Around The World. A variety of topics and events from all over the world...

- 9.00 Tour of Duty. "Lonesome Cowboy Elles" Zeke, Goldman and Bravo, Company run into a ten-year-old kid who saves them from a VC ambush. Later, the child is suspected to be a VC spy; Zeke defends him from the charges. Taylor and Perrell try to get a friend a job as a chef for the officers...

- 10.00 Homeroom

- 10.30 A Classical Film. "The Big Sleep" Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall. Private eye Marlowe is fired to protect. General Stremwood's wild young daughter from her own indiscretions...

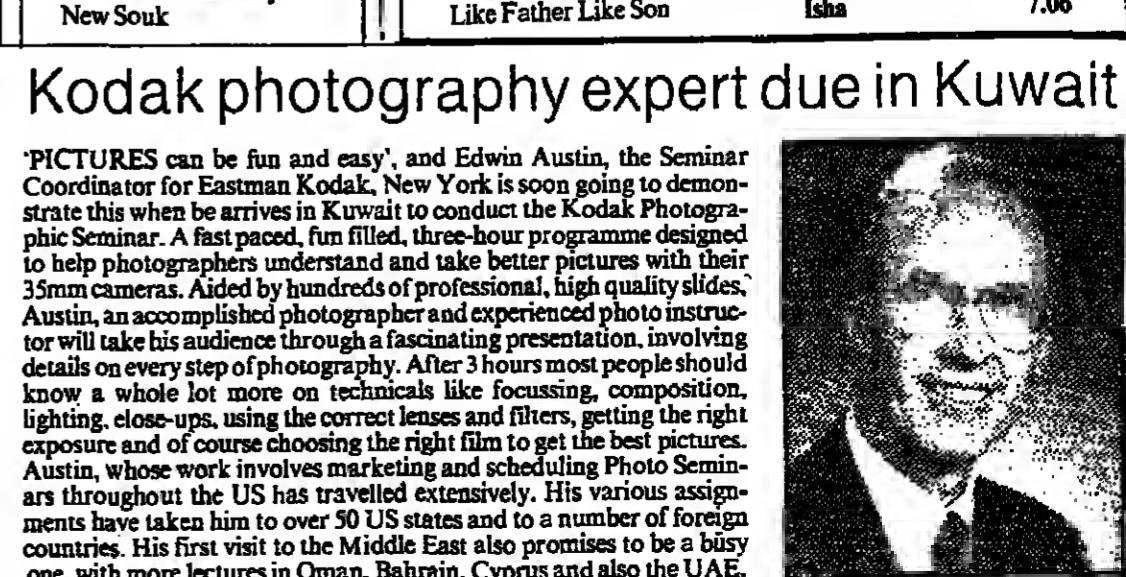
- 12.00 News in Brief

- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite



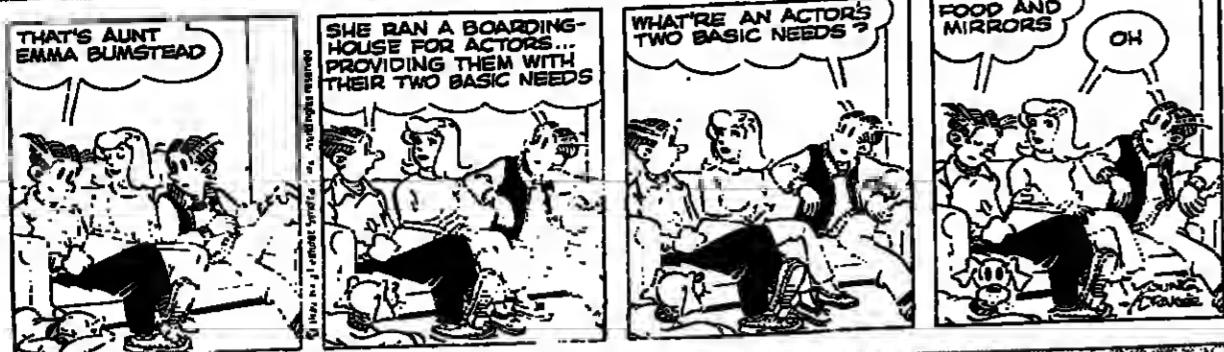
Indian School's Annual Day

Mrs. Bhudiraja gives away the performance prize to Mrs. Soma Kumar of the Indian School on the occasion of the school's Annual Day celebrated recently.

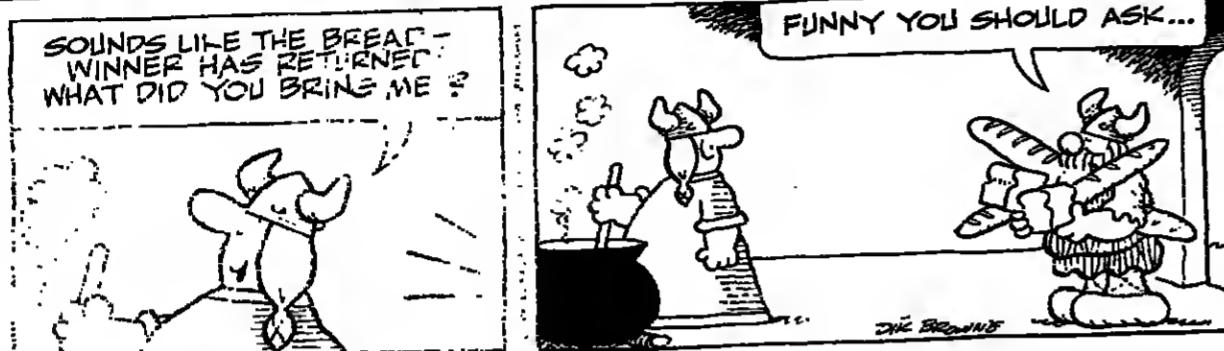


Kodak photography expert due in Kuwait

BLONDIE — By Della Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Garry Trudeau



AGATHA CRUMPT — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP — By Johnny Hart



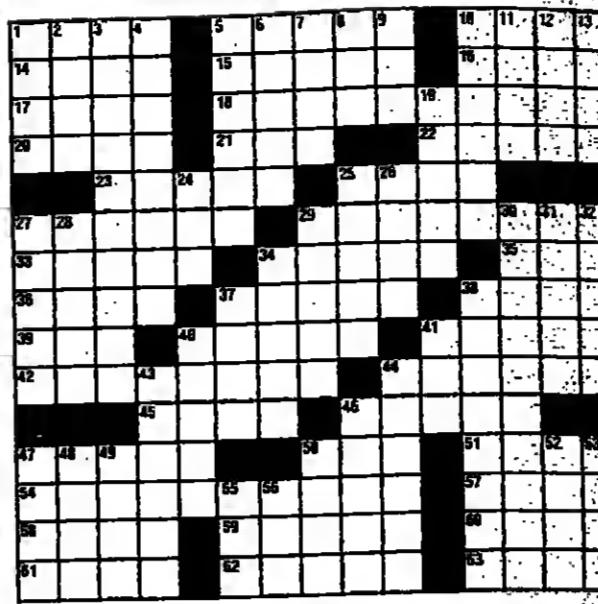
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By Matt & J. Sherr



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



LOOK FOR THE SILVER LINING

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ A 10 3

▼ A K J 3

♦ Q 10 4

♦ A 7 4

WEST

♦ 5 2

▼ 10 9 7 5

♦ J 8 7 2

♦ Q 10 3

♦ J 8 6 5 2

EAST

♦ K Q J 9 6

▼ 6

♦ A K 9 6 3

♦ K 9

SOUTH

♦ K Q 9 6

▼ 6

♦ A K 9 6 3

♦ K 9

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass

4 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass

7 ♠ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

It is a lazy habit to settle for the first plan of attack you uncover. Once you have good idea of how you want to proceed, look around to see if the overall campaign can be strengthened.

North's jump to three no trump described a hand of 16-18 points and a 4-3-3-3 pattern. When South showed an unbalanced hand, North jumped to five no trump to indicate an "absolute maximum" with too many aces to initiate a cue-bidding

sequence. With at least a king more than a minimum opening bid South elected to contract for all the tricks.

West led a trump and declarer saw no problem with the hand.

Trumps were drawn in three rounds and South was all but ready to claim the rest of the tricks when East showed out on the second diamond. With two diamonds to get rid of, declarer was forced to take the heart finesse. Unfortunately, that was not to be — down one.

The combined 3-2 diamond split

and heart finesse offered about a 90

percent chance of success. But there

was yet another possibility suggested by the high trumps on the table — a dummy reversal.

After winning the opening lead in

hand, declarer should cash the ace

of hearts, discarding a diamond

from hand and then ruff a heart

high. If the queen of hearts comes down, declarer can draw trumps and claim. When the lady doesn't appear, declarer returns to the board with a trump to the ten and when both defenders follow he can virtually claim. Declarer ruffs the last heart, cashes the ace and king of clubs and ruffs a club. A diamond to the queen provides the entry to draw the last trump and the ace and king of diamonds take the last two tricks.

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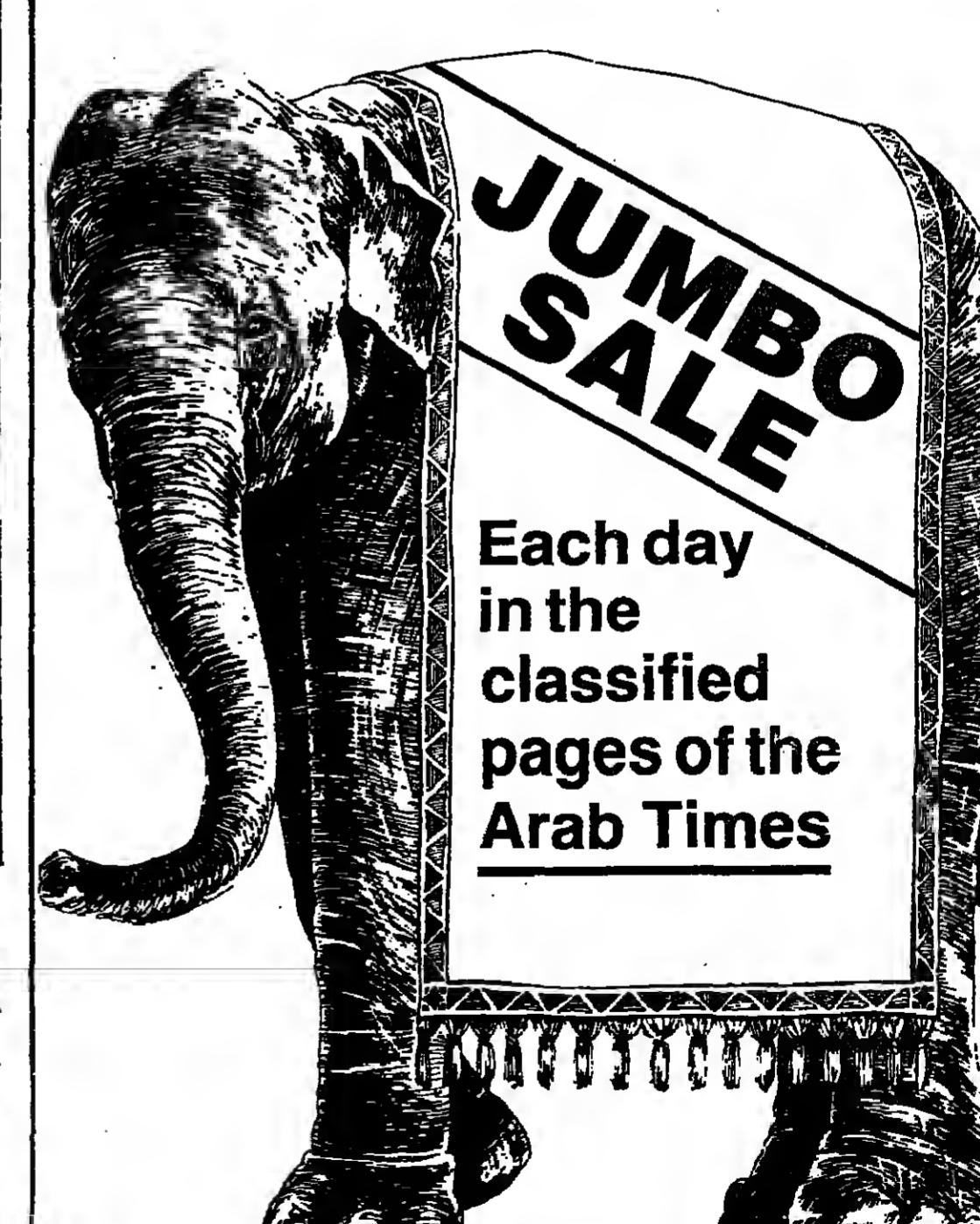
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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Honeyghan demolished in three rounds

Breland retains title

LONDON, March 4. (Reuters): American Mark Breland retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight crown last night when he stopped a shattered and pitiful Lloyd Honeyghan in the third of 12 scheduled rounds.

Breland, making his fourth title defence, demolished the British former champion in a completely one-sided fight in which Honeyghan was floored six times and took five compul-

sory eight-counts.

Honeyghan, with his nickname "Ragamuffin," emblazoned on his shorts, looked just as scrappy as the name suggested and offered none of his much-vaunted aggression against a smiling opponent.

After two minutes and 15 seconds of the third round, with the crowd screaming for Panamanian referee Julio Alvarado to stop the fight, the contest was declared over.

have all been over within five rounds.

Honeyghan, hit with a devastating left hook in the first round and later booted out the ring to cries of "what a load of rubbish," said nothing about his future after the fight.

"I'm going to analyse myself," he said. "I'm saying nothing today. I fought badly tonight."

"It must have been the first punch which caught me flush. I just wasn't warmed up properly. I can't explain it."

Honeyghan, 29, said he felt most sorry for his children, who were watching the fight.

Honeyghan's manager Micky Duff said: "Maybe it's time for Lloyd to quit, but that's a decision that Lloyd must take for himself."

Breland, 15 centimeters taller than the Briton, used his superior reach to telling effect in a Wembley Arena that was only three-quarters full.

Jose Garras, Breland's assistant trainer, said: "We always knew Honeyghan was a one-shot fighter but tonight he did not even have one shot."

Honeyghan, who said before the fight he wanted to be known as the "The Banger," fizzled out in the face of Breland's relentless assault.

It was the Briton's third defeat in a career which took off gloriously in September 1986 when he stopped undisputed champion Don Curry of the US in six rounds in Atlantic City.



Knut Rainhardt (right) from Leverkusen tries to stop Cologne's Thomas Haessner in the W. German First Division soccer match. (Reuter wirephoto)

Sanchez takes Real to victory

SEVILLE, Spain, March 4. (Reuters): Two goals in the last five minutes gave Real Madrid 2-1 away win over Seville yesterday and stretched their runaway lead in the Spanish soccer First Division to 10 points.

Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez clinched Real's victory with his 29th goal of the season two minutes from the final whistle after Emilio Butragueno had given the Madrid side a lifeline.

Five minutes from the end

Paco Llorente scooped the ball back from the byline for Butragueno to put Real on equal terms after it had looked as if a 36-minute strike by Uruguayan midfielder Pablo Bengoechea might be enough for Seville win.

Three minutes later a foul against Rafael Martin Vazquez gave Real a free-kick 30 metres from goal. Sanchez looped his kick over the Seville defensive wall and it bounced in off a post.

Real, heading for their fifth consecutive League title, have scored 81 goals this season and, with 10 games to come, look like beating the record of 96 established by arch-rivals Barcelona.

Real started strongly. Manolo Sanchez dribbled through the Seville defence and beat Soviet World Cup keeper Rinat Dasayev, only for his shot to bounce harmlessly off a post.

But Seville, tough and determined, took the lead when Bengoechea pierced the Real defence 10 minutes from halftime.

Sevilla thwarted the second-half attacks of a Real side, which was without suspended West German midfielder Bernd Schuster, and looked like ending the Madrid club's run of 17 matches without defeat.

But Butragueno and Sanchez turned the tables and a save by goalkeeper Paeo Buyo 30 seconds from the end, which denied Austrian striker Anton Polster, clinched it for Real.

Bordeaux crash to heaviest defeat

PARIS, March 4. (Reuters): French Soccer League leaders Bordeaux crashed to their heaviest defeat of the season when they were beaten 3-0 by struggling Cannes yesterday.

Two goals in the first half from Franck Duxix and Yannick Stoprya and a third one minute from time by Bruno Bellone handed Bordeaux their second successive away loss.

Rivals Marseille, who had their match in St Etienne postponed to allow them to prepare for their European Cup quarter-final with CFKA Sofia next Wednesday, remain four points behind but now have two games in hand.

The morale-boosting win for the Mediterranean team over the League leaders came at the end of a strange week of controversy involving international midfielder Luis Fernandez.

Fernandez was "irreversibly" barred from the Cannes team a week ago by trainer Jean Fernandez, who is no relation, after a bizarre argument about a cup of coffee.

Club directors and even the town mayor publicly supported the coach, who ordered the player to train with the third team for the rest of the season and said he would not have him in his side even after a public apology.

But Fernandez appeared in the team as sweeper, set up the second goal brilliantly for Stoprya and was warmly embraced by the other Fernandez as he left the pitch.

Bordeaux, who have looked ill at ease since the end of the mid-winter break, were clearly baffled by it all as well.

Souchaux fell from third to fourth with a surprise 3-1 home defeat to Nantes for whom recalled Belgian midfielder Franck Vercauteren scored twice, once from the penalty spot.

Monaco, who beat Paris St Germain 2-0 on Friday, climbed above them. Once again they had Argentine striker Ramon Diaz to thank as he netted his 11th goal of the season.

Results

Team	W	L	Goals
Brest	2	1	10
Carcassonne	1	1	10
Caen	3	1	10
Canterbury	0	1	10
Montpellier	1	1	10
Sochaux	1	1	10
Toulouse	1	1	10

St. Etienne

Paris

Monaco

Montpellier

Sochaux

Toulouse

St. Etienne

Paris

Monaco

Montpellier

Sochaux

Johnson stumbles in meet

FAIRFAX, Virginia, March 4. (UPI) — Defending champion Brandy Johnson, coming off a spate of physical problems, stumbled three times during her floor exercise, fell during her uneven bar routine and was eliminated from the McDonald's American Cup Gymnastics Meet yesterday.

The Soviet Union's Natalia Zemtsova, 16, finished first in the preliminary round, winning or sharing first place in three of four events, with Americans Sandy Woolsey, 17, and Kim Zmeskal, 14, placing second and third, respectively. Johnson, 16, the US national champion, finished 22nd, with only the top eight finishers advancing to today's finals.

On the men's side, American Lance Kingwald was the top finisher in the preliminary round, with Cuba's Felix Aguilera second.

Johnson, lacking her usual enthusiasm, stood in fourth place before the floor exercise, her final event, appearing to be a "couch to finish" among the top eight.

But Johnson came down awkwardly on three landings and was given only an 8.175 in the event

— the lowest score of any of the 24 competitors. After completing the floor exercise, she stumbled over in frustration, consoled by her coach, Kevin Brown.

Johnson placed first overall in five of her seven competitions last year, but has been hampered by a series of physical problems of late. She competed with a broken ankle in the World

Championships in Stuttgart, West Germany last October,

then nursed a back injury and on Feb. 23 underwent minor exploratory surgery on her kidneys and bladder.

"I'm glad the meet's over

with Johnson," said: "I wish I

would have had more time for

training with all my illnesses and injuries."

Kalinina tied with Zmeskal,

the US junior national champion

and a protege of famed coach

Bela Karolyi, for first place in the vault with a 9.9 and won the

balance beam with a 9.862 and the floor exercise with a 9.950.

Roundout the qualifiers for today's final round on the women's side were Japan's Mari

Kosuge, Romania's Liviu

Molosovici, Spain's Alicia

Fernandez, Japan's Hanaka Miura,

and Canada's Leah Homma.

American Shannon Miller

finished sixth in the standings, but

did not advance because of a rule

limiting each country to no more

than two participants in the

finals.

Richardson hits England for ton

W. Indies win off last ball

KINGSTON, Jamaica, March 4. (Reuters) — Ian Bishop crashed the last ball of the innings high over extra cover for four to give West Indies a three-wicket victory over England in a dramatic climax to the third one-day cricket international at Sabina Park yesterday.

Bishop's telling blow took West Indies to 216 for seven after England scored 214 for eight, both sides batting their full 50 overs.

West Indies needed six runs from the final over with four wickets in hand, including that of Richie Richardson, who had just completed an exhilarating century.

Richardson, who finished with an unbeaten 108, took a single off the first ball bowled by paceman Angus Fraser but Ezra Moseley was caught at extra cover off the second.

Bishop failed to score off the third ball but squeezed two runs from the next. Having been beaten by the fifth ball, he sloged the last between two sweepers on the cover boundary and joyously ran off the field with arms raised as spectators invaded the playing area.

West Indies take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series, the first two games having been washed out by rain.

England's batting was again lifted by Allan Lamb, the century-making hero of their win in the first Test here this week, who this time scored a fine 66 from 97 balls.

But he was upstaged by Richardson, who reached his third hundred in one-day inter-



Ian Bishop

nationals off only 123 balls, having hit 10 fours and three sixes, two in three deliveries from medium-fast bowler David Capel.

England's catching let them down, however, Richardson being dropped on 47, 67 and 100.

West Indies bad made a bad start by losing both openers in the first eight overs.

Carlisle Best, shuffling across, had his leg stump removed by Gladstone Small, while Desmond Haynes was caught in the gully after Phil Defreitas had got a delivery to lift.

Richardson and Carl Hooper added 51 for the third wicket but the stand took 22 overs, so accurately did the English seamers bowl.

Then Hooper, having made 20 off 57 balls, danced down the wicket to off-spinner Eddie Hemmings but was beaten in the flight and bowled.

Richardson then tilted the balance in a fourth-wicket partnership with his captain Viv Richards which added 84 in 14 overs.

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Courier stuns Agassi in Scottsdale Classic

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., March 4. (Reuters): Andre Agassi played a competitive first set before falling against fellow-American Jim Courier yesterday in the final stage of round-Robin play at the \$300,000 Scottsdale Classic tennis tournament.

The 7-6, 6-0 defeat to Courier ruined Agassi's bid to place for today's first place prize of \$100,000. Instead, Aaron Krickstein, a 7-6, 6-4 winner over Spain's Emilio Sanchez, reached the final match against fellow-American Tim

Mayotte.

Mayotte beat compatriot Jim Grabb 6-4, 6-1 in his last round-robin match to finish on top of his group. Courier and Sanchez will play for third and fourth place in the special eight-man event.

Agassi matched Courier's fierce groundstrokes with equal power and velocity in the first set and neither player dropped a game until 6-6 and the tiebreaker.

Both players, rivals from their days at the Bollettieri Academy in Florida, moved each other from side to side and forced the pace, but it was Courier who led all the way in the tiebreaker, taking a 4-1 lead after an Agassi forehand.

After that, Agassi appeared to lose all interest in the match, smacking groundstrokes into the net and allowing winners from Courier to sail past him. The set was over in 17 minutes with Agassi winning just five points.

"When you get 3-0 down in a matter of minutes it's tough to keep the level of intensity," Agassi said. "If you give a 3-0 lead to anybody on the Tour they're going to win the match."

Gilbert clinches crown

ROTTERDAM, March 4. (UPI): Topsed Brad Gilbert of the United States finished this week's \$500,000 World Tennis Tournament today with a convincing 6-1, 6-3 win over Sweden's 7th-seeded Jonas Svensson.

Playing his first final of the year, Gilbert, the world's No. 4, displayed flawless tennis and seemed to return everything from Svensson's racket with the regularity of a stone wall.

The 23-year-old Swede, who had less success with his first serve than in yesterday's semifinals, tried everything in the book, but Gilbert appeared second-guessed him and was at the right spot even before the ball bounded.

With only one game to Svensson, ranked 29, the first set was an easy take-away for the 28-year-old American.

In the second set Gilbert continued his able play, broke twice in a row and held his own service to start off with a 3-0 lead, before Svensson broke back and won his own, reaching 3-3.

As Gilbert served the sixth game, the Swede had found the balance, playing a more aggressive game with top-spin as well as sliced backhands and breaking again to 3-3.

But the American, keeping perfect self-control, broke Svensson's serve in the 7th game, held his own in the next, and steered home to 6-3 in his opponent's serve game.

Today's win was Gilbert's second over Svensson in as many matches. In 1986 Gilbert won 6-3, 6-2 over the Swede in Vienna. Since 1984 Gilbert has been in 28 finals, 18 of which he has won, but only seven of the wins have been outside the United States.

Moves to persuade Baghdad

(Continued from Page 1)

by Oudai Saddam Hussein, son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, announced the pullout yesterday.

An Iraqi spokesman said Baghdad took the decision to withdraw "in view of the fact that sports have been used to divide the Arab nation instead of uniting it."

"Our participation was aimed at enhancing the brotherly spirit among Arabs ... and not making sports a means to divide the Arab nation," the spokesman said.

The Iraqis have complained in the past that that Gulf sports federations' bribe referred to favour to their teams.

The Iraqi statement noted that Prince Faisal, chairman of the Saudi Arabian football federation and son of King Fahd, warned Iraq not to take part in the championships because of an "unhealthy atmosphere" in Kuwait.

The Baghdad statement, attributed to a source in the Iraqi Football Federation, said the Saudis plan to organise a separate tournament "to be the true and clean face of Arab sports away from groupings and axes."

Italian soccer

ROME, March 4. (Reuters): Results of Italian First Division soccer matches today:

Atalanta	0	Bologna	0
Cosenza	2	Bari	2
Fiorentina	0	Cremonese	0
Verona	2	Udinese	2
Lazio	3	Internazionale	1
Lecco	0	Roma	2
AC Milan	2	Ascoli	1
Napoli	2	Genoa	1
Sampdoria	0	Juventus	0

British soccer

LONDON, March 4. (Reuters): Results of an English football League Division One match today: Coventry 2, Aston villa 0, (halftime 0-0).

Scores: Kevin Drinnell (52nd minute), David Smith (53rd). Attendance: 17,891.

Navratilova in final

Sukova edges Frazier



Sukova: made to fight for victory

Masur advances to final

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 4. (Reuters): Sixth-seeded Wally Masur of Australia overwhelmed unseeded American Glenn Layendecker 6-3, 6-2 yesterday to reach the final of the \$250,000 Memphis Indoor Tennis Tournament.

Masur was to meet unseeded Michael Stich of West Germany in today's final. Stich eliminated Gary Muller of South Africa 7-5, 7-6 in an earlier semifinal.

Stich will be playing his first tournament final, while Masur seeks his fourth career championship and first since winning in Newport in July 1983.

Masur has a style familiar to

Australian professionals — he is a classical serve-and-volleyer, who covers the court with grace and ease.

The Australian, who lost only one set on his way to the final, frustrated the 63rd-ranked Layendecker. He kept the American, who also prefers to serve-and-volley, pinned to the baseline with his aggressive tactics.

"I got on top early and that really helps," said the 26-year-old Masur.

Masur's road to the finals was cleared by the early exit of both top seed Stefan Edberg and second seed Michael Chang.

"Stich's big serve took him to

victory over Muller. Stich, 21, even dictated play off his second serve.

In contrast, Navratilova had

difficulty with her serve through-

"Those guys got bumped out early — they had some injuries," Masur said. "This shows the depth of the men's tour. They left a hole for me to go through."

Layendecker admitted he was thoroughly outplayed by Masur.

"He beat me pretty much all around," said Layendecker, who ousted Chang in the second round. "He served and did things well, so that was physical. And he had me struggling on my service games. That's mental. He pretty much dominated."

Stich's big serve took him to

victory over Muller. Stich, 21,

even dictated play off his second serve.

Kuwait rally champion to drive Pajero

KUWAIT: Eid Falah the reigning Kuwait National Rally champion has confirmed that he will drive a Mitsubishi Pajero in the 1990 Maribor Desert Challenge. The talented 28-year-old Kuwaiti who recently added the Kuwait four-wheel-drive championship title to his list of achievements is a real contender to win the coveted 4x4 title.

"I drove the Pajero last year in the Qatar and Kuwait BP rallies and was very impressed," said Falah. "I am delighted that Maribor have backed me again this year."

Falah joins defending title holder Abbas Al

Arabia) who also drove for Rallart Middle East, the UAE based rally wing of Mitsubishi.

"Eid is a very fast driver and a real addition to our team," said Al Mosawi who won the Maribor Desert Challenge for the past two seasons.

Teams from the UAE, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are contesting the 1990 series which first started in Kuwait in 1987, and has quickly grown to become a highly popular series. The current leaders after the BP 2000 Trophy, Dubai are Suhail Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum (UAE) in a Land Rover (Group 1) and Hamed Bin Eid Al Thani (Qatar) in a Nissan Patrol (Group 2).

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